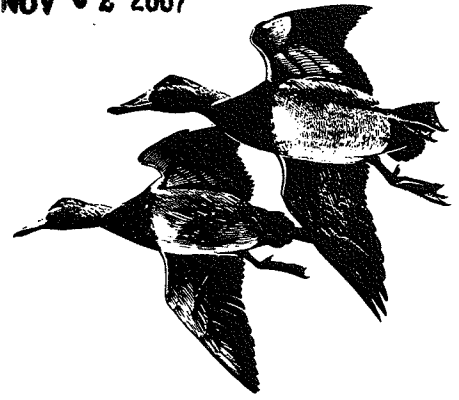


NOV 02 2007



Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

October 23, 2007

Dear Caryn;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) proposed EIS for the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program through the public comment process. As you know, I am very concerned about the welfare of the few remaining wetlands in the State of Nevada, and am especially concerned about the negative impacts that such a program could have on the few that remain as part of the Walker River drainage.

Since the efforts were initiated to tighten up the agricultural water deliveries within the Walker River drainage, the State has lost one of the two Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) in this area. The Alkali Lake WMA was an important wetland area, which prior to the efforts to put more water in Walker Lake, provided an average of more than 2.2 million waterfowl use-days annually from 1968-1989, with a high during that period of more than 8.6 million waterfowl use-days in 1968. In addition, it was an important waterfowl nesting area and averaged 175 nesting pairs of ducks annually with a high of 438 pairs. It annually produced large numbers of redheads and in good years produced a number of broods of canvasbacks, both of which are species of special interest under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. In recent years the area has been almost completely dry and use-day figures have fallen to less than a few thousand and waterfowl production is almost nonexistent, even in the best water years. Besides providing wetland habitat for waterfowl, the area was an important nesting and migration area for other wetland dependent non-game birds.

Based upon a wetland inventory by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the late 1960's or early 1970's, western Nevada had lost an estimated 82% of the wetlands that were present at statehood. Since the time that the survey was conducted, wetlands have continued to disappear at a steady rate in spite of several Federal efforts to implement a "no net loss of wetlands" policy. Since the 1930's Nevada has lost two National Wildlife Refuges and two state WMA's, three of which have been lost in the last twenty years. To my knowledge, no state has ever lost such a high percentage of its government managed wetlands at this. All of these managed wetland complexes have been lost partially or wholly as a result of government actions. Additionally there have been proposals put forth to use the water rights from the last remaining WMA on the Walker River to supply additional water to Walker Lake.

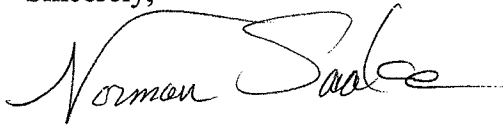
"Wildlife Habitat, the Key to Preservation"

As the water levels of Walker Lake have declined over the years, it has become increasingly more important to large numbers of waterfowl during the migration period. In recent years, Walker Lake has had the second or third highest concentrations of migratory waterfowl in the State of Nevada. As the Lake has receded, and the shallow areas have become more extensive and large beds of widgeon grass have been produced, which provides large numbers of birds with a valuable food resource. In recent years, counts of more than 10,000 redheads have been recorded annually, making this the largest concentration in the state for this species. Large numbers of gadwalls and shovelers are also present from August through April and counts of more than 90,000 coots have been recorded. As Walker Lake continues to recede and the Lake develops more shallow water areas, it will become even more attractive to large numbers of waterfowl. In some respect, Walker Lake has helped to make up for some of the wetland losses in the rest of the western portion of Nevada.

Currently, the BOR, is appealing a ruling by the Nevada State Engineer's office which granted a full-duty water right transfers to the wetlands in Lahontan Valley. If the BOR is successful in the overturning of the State Engineer's ruling, then the case could also be made that water rights purchased for Walker Lake would also have to be transferred at a reduced rate. This would in turn mean that additional of water would have to be acquired in order to provide 50,000 acre-feet of water for the Lake.

It is my hope that serious attention will be giving to addressing the impacts to wetland habitats within the Walker River drainage and that if losses do occur, that they will be mitigated fully. With so few wetland habitats remaining in Nevada, it is important that the remaining ones be protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman Saake". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Norman Saake
4585 Saint Clair Rd.
Fallon, NV 89406

NOV 02 2007

Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

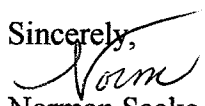
October 31, 2007

Dear Caryn;

I don't know if the BOR or the preparer or the EIS for the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program would be interested in some help in preparing the wetland's and migratory water-bird portions of the document. If there is some interest, I may be interested in a very limited contract to help review and/or write those portions of the EIS that deal with those two subjects.

As you are probably already aware, I have more experience working with waterfowl and wetland issues than anyone else in Nevada and have been involved with these resources for more than forty years. When I retired from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, I kept copies of most of my surveys that I conducted and the data I collected in the state and still have them in my possession. In addition, in the early 1990's, Gary Shelhorn and I were the co-preparers of the EIS for the Lahontan Valley Wetlands Water Right Purchase program. While it has been a number of years since I worked on the EIS, I still have a pretty good working knowledge of what is needed to prepare the document.

If you determine that my help would be an option, which you would like to consider, give me a call and we can discuss this.

Sincerely,

Norman Saake
4585 Saint Clair Rd.
Fallon, NV 89406

775-867-2198

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____
 Affiliation (if any) _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Date: _____



Ms. Frances Sandoval
266 Mallet Dr
Walker Lake NV 89415

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

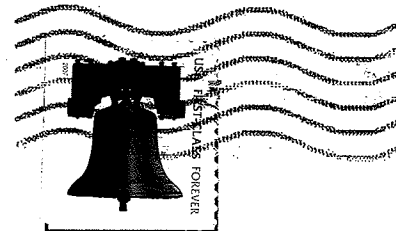
Return Address:



Ms. Frances Sandoval
266 Mallet Dr
Walker Lake NV 89445

RENO NV 895

20 NOV 2007 PM 3 T



Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- 1. Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.**
- 2. Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.**
- 3. Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.**
- 4. Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.**
- 5. Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.**
- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.**

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

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3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: JAMES R. SANFORD
Affiliation (if any): _____
Street Address: 17 SO. OREGON ST.
City, State, Zip: YERINGTON, NV 89447 Date: 10/26/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

TAKING SO MUCH WATER FROM UPSTREAM
will decimate wildlife, agriculture,
ECONOMY AND ECOLOGY - All without
ASSURANCE it will ACTUALLY "SAVE"
the lake. There is simply NOT
enough water.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

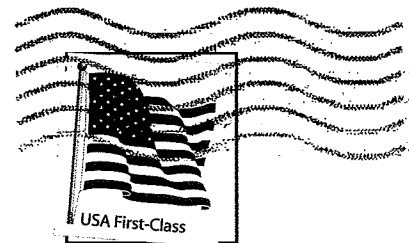
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

JAMES R. JANSOLD
1750. Oregon St
Youngtown, NV
89447

RENO NV 895

26 OCT 2007 PM 2 T



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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OCT 29 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

8970134066

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Jim & Lisa Sanford

17 S. Oregon St.
Yerington, NV 89447
(Email: sunny091929@aol.com)

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DEC 04 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St. Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: EIS Statement for Walker River Basin Acquisition Program

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Walker River Basin Project which will obviously have a tremendous impact upon the valleys and communities and lifestyles we have loved for over 50 years. What we want most of all is a fair, unbiased and comprehensive EIS, taking into account what happens to upstream water users as well as to Walker Lake. No one wants to see Walker Lake run dry yet again, but neither do we want to see our two valleys (which are centered around agriculture and ag-related business) decimated by the removal of so much water for a project which has not even been proven will be successful.

First of all, we feel the Bureau of Reclamation should be urged to analyze alternatives not in the statute to help reach the goal of sustaining improved conditions over the long-term at the lake. Among those considerations should be desalination, oxygenation, water leasing/banking and nonacquisitional efforts (channel improvements, conservation efforts, cloud seeding, and more use of effluent.

We would also urge Reclamation to consider current climatic conditions and not base conclusions on prior year statistics which will include big water years. You know our area is in the midst of a serious drought and thus the older stats will be misleading when you consider the effects of Global Warming. We would urge the use of current precipitation figures and weather conditions and predicted future figures when considering the EIS data. If the predicted effects of Global Warming are real, further depletion of water quantities in the Walker River system will surely compound the problems for both upstream and lake users.

Another consideration is that the Walker River and its accompanying ditch delivery system serve as the primary recharge source for groundwater for agricultural endeavors, numerous domestic wells in our two valleys, and municipal water service. The removal of large quantities of water from the WR system will create very real concerns for businesses, residents, Lyon and Douglas Counties, and the City of Yerington.

Section 208(2)(B) of the law calls for "environmental restoration in the Walker River Basin". While this is hopefully a very high priority in your considerations and future plans, one has to wonder how the environment can really be restored if water is taken off the land.

Most of the emphasis thus far has been placed on Section 208(a) which features the acquisition of water from willing sellers upstream from Walker Lake. In the original proposal back several years ago, upstream water on the California side of the system was included. That option was dropped this time around, arguably for political reasons. But there are sources of additional water for Walker Lake other than those found in the WR system in Mason and Smith valleys. For example, water is available from the Mt. Grant watershed which the federal government has dammed and retains ownership of; on the Walker River Indian Reservation just south of the lake itself where wells already exist and a huge groundwater source is available; and even from the Hawthorne Ammunition Depot since the community of Babbitt no longer exists. Have these sources even been looked at? Why can't they share in supplying water to save the lake?

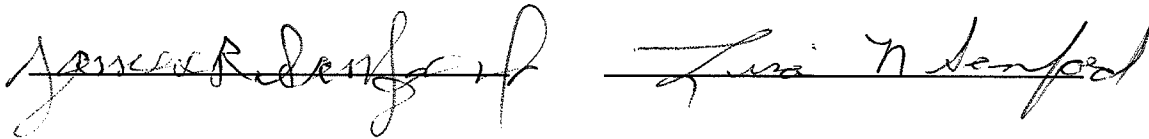
Other sections of the same law also need to be considered just as closely as the one calling for acquisition of additional water. Those include the mentioned items of the agricultural and natural resources center, innovative agricultural water conservation efforts, cooperative programs for

environmental restoration, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, and even wild horse and burro research and adoption marketing.

And, finally, what about all the wildlife and floral species upstream of Walker Lake that will be adversely affected by removing a large quantity of water from the land? The lack of water will drastically affect such wildlife and plant environments as well as the habitat and watershed. Is anything going to be done to protect the large variety of species found along the river corridor and in the valleys upstream from the lake? Or are they all to be sacrificed?

Thank you once again for permitting our input into the process. We have been made (primarily by Sen. Reid) to feel like the bastard child throughout this entire proceeding as all appearances point to a decision which has already been made; and we feel like we are simply going through the motions when asked for our opinions. We don't want it that way, but are made to feel it. That frustration causes ugly comments for you and other federal agencies sometimes, and it should not be that way.

Sincerely,
James R. and Lisa N. Sanford

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature on the left is 'James R. Sanford' written in a cursive script. The second signature on the right is 'Lisa N. Sanford' also in a cursive script. Both signatures are written in dark ink and are positioned above a horizontal line.

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Lisa Sanford

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 17 S. Oregon St.

City, State, Zip: Yerington, NV 89447 Date: _____

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Please make it appear that you're not
in Senator Reid's hip pocket. There
are two sides to this story.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

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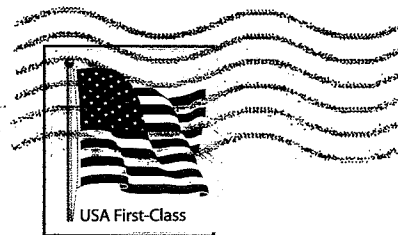
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

Lisa Sanford
17 N. Oregon St
Youngton, NV
89447

RENO NV 895

26 OCT 2007 PM 2 L



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

8970134066

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From: "Sarna, John" <jsarna@water.ca.gov>
To: <chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/10/2007 9:27:33 AM
Subject: Comments for WRBasin Acquisition Program EIS still in progress

Caryn,

Today being the last day of the scoping comment period for the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program EIS, and our comments still being under internal review, would USBR still be able to consider our comments if they were mailed in a few days late? I'm now getting a third draft retyped for review, but I don't know how long that'll take.

John E. Sarna 916/651-0721 jsarna@water.ca.gov
Dept of Water Resources, Central District Office
<http://www.cd.water.ca.gov/cnwa/staff.cfm>

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

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4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Patricia Sculet
Affiliation (if any): Sack Race Ranch
Street Address: 249 US Hwy 95A North
City, State, Zip: Yerington NV 89447 Date: Oct 23, 07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

It believed that this was an open meeting?
Now we can we have extra water to send when
The ranchers could only get 35% of their allocation
of water this year. There is not 50,000 acre feet
left! Do the math!
What are the statistics on dying lake being
reclaimed? We really made a big difference

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

in ^{OWENS} OWNS lake, mono lake didn't we!
Why are people from out of the area making choices
for us who live here!

What ranch, what job, what history
are we trying to save? What economic impact
will be felt by the death of the lake vs
death of Mason Valley? Letting the lake go
serves the greater good!

Just how do you propose to get the water there?
We should not suffer because Mr Reid made a
promise he did not do the research on.

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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Louis Scatena

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 1275 Hwy 208

City, State, Zip: Yerington, NV 89447 Date: 11-23-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

This would impact our environment very
severe in Mason & Smith Valley. It
would also impact home owners, the
real estate market, domestic well owners!
Walker Lake has been declining
over history in elevation. Why is this?

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

It's called mother nature and what is with us today. Common sense should play a big role in this to look at ~~the~~ desalination methods, ~~electro~~ water treatment, species of habitat to live in a saline lake.

We will not benefit Walker Lake by taking 50,000 acre feet or 100,000 acre feet of water, the lake will still decline in elevation and the TDS numbers will go higher its mother nature and as humans here we should accept the changes and not blame man!

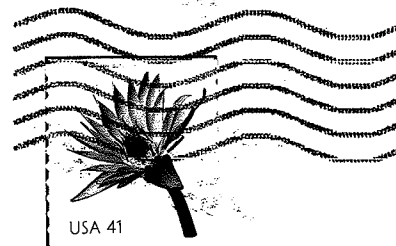
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Return Address:

Klaus Kotene
1275 Hwy 208
Yerington, NV 89447

RENO NV 895

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DEC 04 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: GERALD SCHETTER

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 136 AHAB LANE

City, State, Zip: WALKER LAKE NV Date: 11/26/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

THERE HAVE BEEN WAY TOO MANY STUDIES, IT IS
TIME TO ADD WATER. IF INCENTIVES WON'T WORK
TO GET FARMERS TO USE LESS WATER INTENSIVE
CROPS, NOW ABOUT LAWS THAT WILL, LIVING ON
WALKER LAKE FOR 4 YRS IT IS APALLING NOW WE ARE NOT
INFORMED OR INCLUDED, STOP THE SECRET MEETINGS!

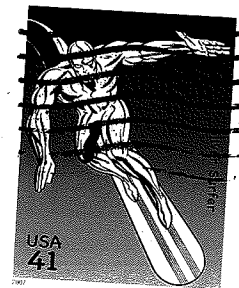
Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

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Return Address:

P.O. BOX 1918
HAWTHORNE NV
89415



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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NOV 28 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

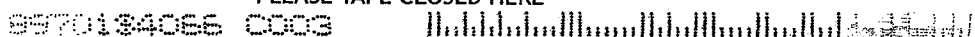
Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: SUSAN SCHOTT.
Affiliation (if any): RESIDENT OF WALKER LAKE
Street Address: Abi Debbie Dr.
City, State, Zip: Walker Lake NV 89415 Date: 11/17/07.

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007



To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- 1. Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.**
- 2. Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.**
- 3. Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.**
- 4. Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.**
- 5. Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.**
- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.**

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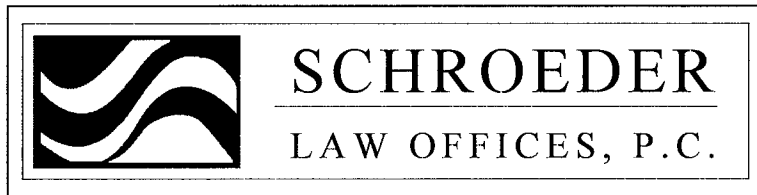
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**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office**

Laura A. Schroeder
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Therese A. Ure
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December 7, 2007

VIA EMAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701
chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: Comments re Walker Lake Acquisition Program Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Caryn:

Because Public Law 107-171, Farm and Security Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 104-103, Omnibus Appropriations Bill, and Public Law 109-103, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act form the bases for the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed action, our initial comments relate to the issue of whether the Bureau of Reclamation ("Reclamation") has correctly interpreted this legislation.

* Section 208 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act provides for the acquisition from "willing sellers land, water appurtenant to the land, and related rights in Walker River Basin, Nevada." Reclamation's public information releases suggest that the legislation must be read as limiting acquisition of water rights to Nevada water rights. The accuracy of this interpretation needs to be examined in light of the language of the entire section, as the legislation speaks to environmental restoration of the entire Walker River Basin, not just the portion of the Basin located in Nevada. Sec. 208(a)(2) provides that in acquiring interests, the University of Nevada is required to make acquisitions that the University determines are most beneficial to environmental restoration of the entire Walker River Basin and to the establishment and operation of an agricultural and natural resources research center.

If the legislation truly restricts the purchase of water rights to Nevada lands and appurtenant water rights, the purchased rights may not include any component of storage rights, as the storage rights are California based. Therefore, this limitation must be taken into consideration when addressing which rights will be determined to be most beneficial.

* Reclamation is obligated to integrate the NEPA process with other planning at the earliest possible time. 40 CFR 1501.2. Reclamation must initiated the process of seeking input from state agencies, as well as local communities early in the process to insure successful integration of the environmental assessment with other environmental laws, codes and regulations. *See, e.g., Lyon County Interim Government Land Management Plan*, addressed in Principles and Objectives and Policies, Chapter 13, Lyon County Code. Even if Californian

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storage rights are not involved, changes in use of the water rights will require assessment of environmental impacts throughout the Walker River Basin.

* The legislation directs Reclamation to fund the acquisition of lands and water appurtenant to those lands. The acquired lands and water rights will have to be transferred from their current manner of use, point of diversion and place of use to instream use. Pursuant to NRS 533.370, where a proposed change will conflict with existing rights or with protectible interests in existing domestic wells, or threatens to prove detrimental to the public interest, the State Engineer shall reject the application. Further, under the newly enacted NRS 533.3703, the State Engineer may consider the consumptive use of a water right and the consumptive use of a proposed beneficial use in determining whether the change in place of diversion, manner of use or place of use complies with NRS 533.370 requirements. This statute may impact how the acquired rights may be quantified.

Change applications for decreed rights must be filed with the State Engineer, and then are subject to review of the Federal District Court. *See* United States Board of Water Commissioners Administrative Rules and Regulations Regarding Change of Point of Diversion, Manner of Use, or Place of Use of Water of the Walker River and Its Tributaries. Upon review the Court may reserve or modify the State Engineer's decision if the decision would impair existing rights under the Walker River Decree, adversely impact some public interest or prejudice substantial rights of the petitioner. The EIS must address these limitations on changes in manner of use when analyzing the proposed action.

NRS 533.024 provides that it is the policy of the State of Nevada to recognize the importance of domestic wells as appurtenances to private homes. The EIS needs to analyze the effects that the purchase of local water rights will have on domestic wells in the Mason and Smith Valleys, as well as alternatives for accessibility to water for domestic well owners if their wells are adversely impacted by the water acquisition program. Additionally, an analysis of the environmental consequences to groundwater quality for domestic well users must be included in the EIS.

* Section 208 requires the acquisition of the lands together with the desired water rights, not merely the water rights. The legislation does not provide for acquisition of water rights alone. Please comment on the environmental consequences, as well as alternative actions for the acquired lands following the stripping of water rights.

* The scoping materials presented by the Bureau appear to suggest that the Bureau reads the legislation as restricting acquisitions to outright purchases from willing sellers. However, if Sec. 208 (a)(1) of Public Law 109-103 (2005) is read in conjunction with Sec. 208 (b)(1), it appears that the use of the term "sellers" is not intended to limit acquisitions to outright purchases. Sec. 208 (b) (1) provides for a water lease and purchase program that acquires rights from "willing sellers". The legislation must be read as a whole, and it is clear from this second provision that "sellers" may lease, as well as sell their lands. The environmental consequences of leasing lands and their appurtenant water rights should be addressed in the EIS.

* The goal of the Desert Terminal Lakes Act is to provide water to desert lakes. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2006 directed funds to the University of Nevada to acquire land and water appurtenant to the land that would be most beneficial to

environmental restoration in the Walker River Basin. The Purpose and Need Statement suggests that the program is needed to begin the process of restoring Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health through provision of increased fresh water inflows. The EIS needs to address why the Bureau is proceeding with funding the acquisition program before the University of Nevada has had the opportunity to research innovative agricultural water conservation and cooperative programs for environmental restoration and fish and wildlife habitat restoration.

* Section 208 of Public Law 109-103 (2005) directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the University of Nevada for “the acquisition from willing sellers land, water appurtenant to the land, and related interests with funds made available under Section 2507” and for the establishment of an agricultural and natural resources center. Additionally, it directs the Secretary to provide funds for a water lease and purchase program for the Walker Lake Paiute Tribe. It further directs the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to provide funds for tamarisk eradication, riparian area restoration, and channel restoration efforts designed to enhance water delivery to Walker Lake. The scoping materials appear to limit the EIS analysis to Section 208 (a)(1)(A).

Given the goal of the Acquisition Program, i.e., to increase the inflow of water into Walker Lake, Sec. 208 (c)(1) must be addressed in the EIS. Sec. 208 (c)(1) provides for the funding of tamarisk eradication, riparian area restoration, and channel restoration efforts within the Walker River Basin to enhance water delivery to Walker Lake. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 1502.4, connected actions should be evaluated in the same NEPA document. Federal agencies may not avoid a more detailed assessment of environmental effects by segmenting a proposed action into mini actions whose effects might appear insignificant in comparison.

* The initiation of the acquisition process is premature because of the ongoing litigation in the Walker Basin, United States District Court, District of Nevada proceedings, In Equity No. C-125-ERC, Subfile No. C-125-B. The Walker River Indian Tribe and the United States, as trustee for the Tribe, have filed claims for storage rights and additional surface and ground water for the Walker River Indian Reservation. The United States is also claiming reserved rights for the Yerington Paiute Tribe, the Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony, the Garrison and Cluette Allotments, as well as individual allotments, as well as rights for other federal reservations. The resolution of this case may impact whether the water rights being sought for purchase will be beneficial at all in achieving the goal. Moving forward on an EIS at this time must be justified in light of this known uncertainty. If any justification can be found, then the proposed action must factor in and consider this known uncertainty.

* Further, the goals of the Desert Terminal Lakes Act (2002), Omnibus Appropriations Bill (2003), and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (2006) legislation appear to contain an inherent conflict. The primary goal of the Desert Terminal Lakes Act is to convey additional water to desert lakes such as Walker Lake. The focus of Section 207 of Public Law 108-07 is to limit providing water and assistance to three specific lakes in the State of Nevada, including Walker Lake. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations legislation shifts the focus from Walker Lake to the entire Walker Basin. It would appear that environmental restoration of the entire Walker Basin, and in particular the wildlife habitat, could adversely impact the efforts to convey additional water to the lake.

Because the 2005 legislation focuses on the Walker River Basin, and not merely impacts to Walker Lake, the EIS needs to address the cumulative effects on lands that will be dewatered, including:

- air quality impacts regarding removal of water from agricultural lands
- water shortages
- groundwater impacts-aquifer depletion
- soil loss
- ecological systems-loss of wildlife populations
- fragmentation of the irrigation district as a result of purchases
- increase in noxious weeds

In addition, the cumulative impacts on the Basin's communities of Smith and Mason Valleys that would result from the proposed action must be addressed in the EIS, including the following:

- impacts on agricultural production
- impacts on irrigation infrastructure
- impacts on the socioeconomic environment including, but not limited to, the overburdening of social services and reduction in tax base.
- social justice impact arising from reduction in agricultural employment opportunities
- impacts on land values
- impacts on community character
- impacts on land use
- impacts on community aesthetics
- economic impacts, including loss of tax revenues

The following additional concerns need to be addressed in the EIS:

* The Bureau appears to rely on the figure of an annual increase of 50,000 acre-feet inflow to the Walker Lake as adequate for moving Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health. The basis for this figure is unclear. The USGS Fact Sheet FS-115-96, Water Budget and Salinity of Walker Lake, Western Nevada (Thomas 1995) suggests that in order to reduce 1994 levels of dissolved-solids concentrations to 10,000 mg/L, the lake-surface altitude would need to be raised approximately to 3,964 feet from the 1994 level, requiring a surge of approximately 700,000 acre-feet of water. Thomas further proposed that an additional 47,000 acre-feet/year would be required to maintain the lake level, assuming 1939-93 hydrological conditions. Given the conflicting scientific information, and the apparent impossibility of being able to provide a surge of water sufficient to elevate the lake-surface altitude, the EIS must provide a realistic assessment of the efficacy of the proposed action. Further, the analysis of the environmental consequences must address the effects of climate change on the determination of the quantity of water needed to achieve the goal of the legislation, and what data will be used to calculate these effects.

* Despite the statement made by the Bureau of Reclamation in its notice of extension of scoping comment period that other options for providing water to Walker Lake will not be analyzed in detail in the EIS, 40 CFR 1502.14 provides, that the discussion of alternatives to the proposed action is to form the heart of the EIS. The agency is to "[r]igorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives. . . ." The Council on Environmental Quality suggests that alternatives outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency must be analyzed in the EIS if they are reasonable. Therefore, the EIS needs to identify and evaluate reasonable alternatives for achieving environmental restoration to all or a portion of Walker Lake including:

- Obtaining the needed water through a combination of alternative measures including conservation practices and channelization of Walker River.
- Construction of a salinity barrier across a portion of the lake.
- Desalinization of Walker Lake
- Cloud seeding
- Construction of reservoirs for capturing flood event flows so that the waters may be released later in the season.
- Consideration of alternative sources, such as California water rights
- Water banking

* A major concern to the communities that will be most heavily impacted by the proposed action relates to the issue of what entity will hold ownership of the purchased water rights. The legislation does not appear to address this issue, and the scoping information provided by the Bureau failed to address this as well. Will the purchased rights be irrevocably dedicated to a particular purpose like wildlife purposes or will they be available for reinstatement for agricultural purposes? If not, what limitations will be placed upon future uses and potential sales? If the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration, what would preclude the holder of the acquired rights from selling them to the highest bidder for municipal use (i.e., private developers in high growth urban areas such as Las Vegas, Carson City, Reno, Fallon, and Dayton)? The proposed action analysis must address what limitations will be placed on the use of the water if the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration including how those limitations would be legally imposed.

* The scoping materials provided by Reclamation fail to define how the purpose and goal would be evaluated. Environmental restoration was not defined in the scoping materials. Will the restoration be evaluated by reduction in the TDS levels in Walker Lake? If so, why was a 50,000 acre-feet annual increase in inflow selected as a reasonable quantity, given the length of time that it will take to lower the TDS levels in Walker Lake? Conversely, does environmental restoration involve restoration of the fishery? If so, the EIS needs to address whether the 10,000 ppm salinity goal, as discussed by NDOW, is adequate for successful fishery restoration. The

NDEP Draft TMDL (February 2005) suggested that TDS levels as low as 5,000 mg/l make "kidney damage more prevalent" among LCT populations.

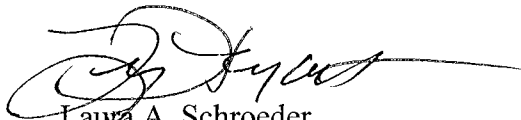
* Walker River has significant sedimentation issues, which are positively impacted by the diversion of water for irrigation purposes. The EIS must include an analysis of the environmental consequences of terminating diversions for irrigation purposes on the quality of water flowing into Walker Lake.

* In assessing the proposed and alternative actions, consideration must be given to the potential conflict between the goal of the legislation and the United States' responsibility as trustee for the Walker River Indian Tribe. An increase in inflows into Walker Lake may require modification of the river channel. Issues relating to the excess loss of flows in certain areas between the Wabuska Gage and Walker Lake have been raised. Please see the attached photographs identifying changes to the river channel from 1938 to 2002. The causes of these losses must be analyzed in the EIS. Further, environmental justice and sovereignty issues must be analyzed in the discussion of these alternatives.

* As a final comment, *The Memorandum for General Counsels, NEPA Liaisons, and Participants in Scoping* published by the Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, suggests that a post-scoping document be made available to the public. The council suggests that this proposal is particularly applicable when scoping has been conducted by written comments. We would request that a post-scoping document be prepared and made available to the public.

Very truly yours,

SCHROEDER LAW OFFICES, P.C.



Laura A. Schroeder
Lynn L. Steyaert

LLS:tjj

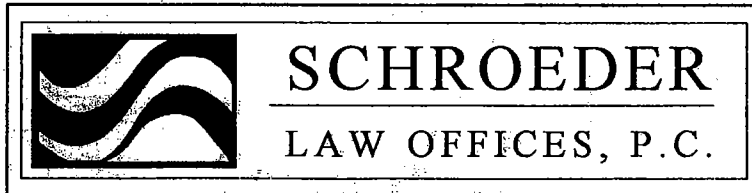
Enclosures

cc: clients

Laura A. Schroeder
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V. Scott Borison, Ph.D.
Certified Legal Manager

Daryl N. Cole
Office Manager



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Colm Moore
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

Therese A. Ure
Licensed in Nevada

Wyatt E. Rolfe
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

January 9, 2008

VIA US MAIL

Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701

COPY

RE: Errata for Scoping Comments

Dear Caryn:

We have identified two errata in the scoping comments forwarded to you by this office. The first is found on page 1 of the scoping comments made by Tom Reviglio, dated November 27, 2007 and on page 6 of the scoping comments made by Beverly and Joseph G. Landolt, November 28, 2007.


Reference was made to the Desert Terminal Lakes Act as P.L. 170, Sec. 2507. The correct reference should be P.L. 170-171, Sec. 2507.

The second is located in the Schroeder Law Offices, P.C., letter dated December 7, 2007. The photographs that were attached to the comments were identified on page 6 as being dated 1938 and 2002. The dates are more correctly identified as 1938 and 2000. The photographs themselves correctly reflect the date of their origin.

Please incorporate these changes in the identified scoping comments. If you have any questions, I may be reached at (503) 281-4100.

Very truly yours,

SCHROEDER LAW OFFICES, P.C.


Lynn L. Steyaert

ELS:tj

cc: Clients

phone 503-281-4100

fax 503-281-4600

1915 NE 39th Avenue, P.O. Box 12527, Portland, Oregon 97212-0527

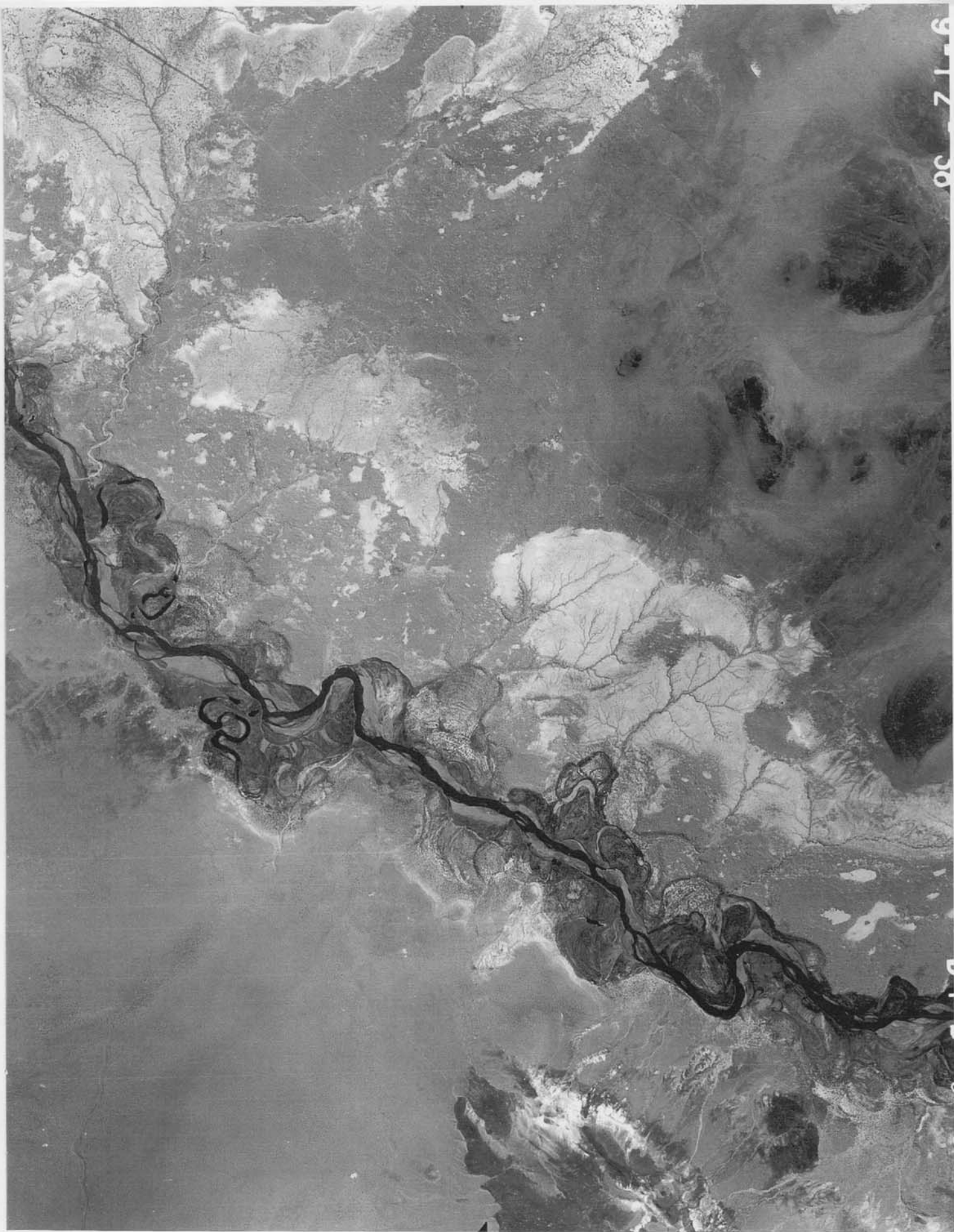
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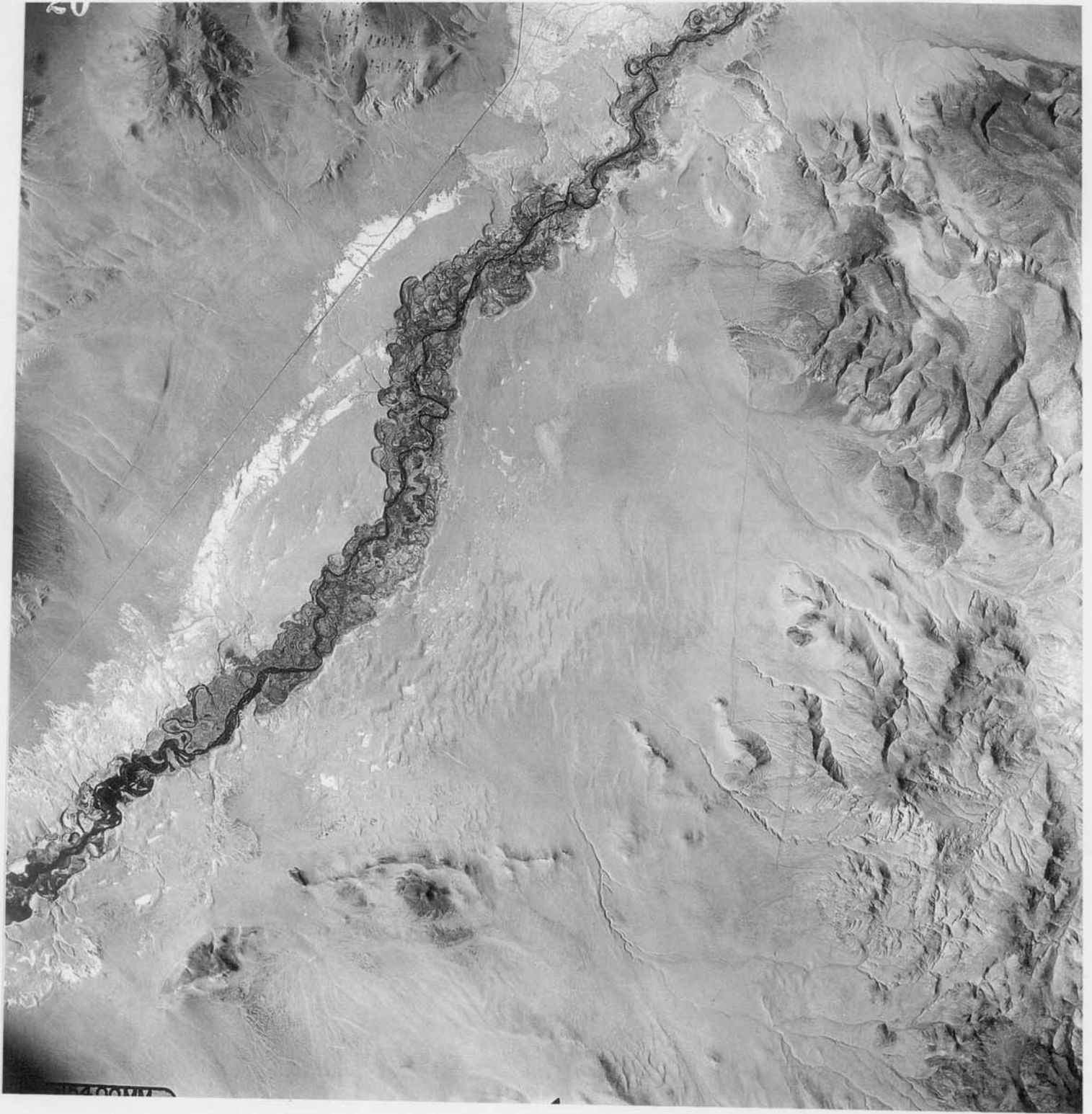
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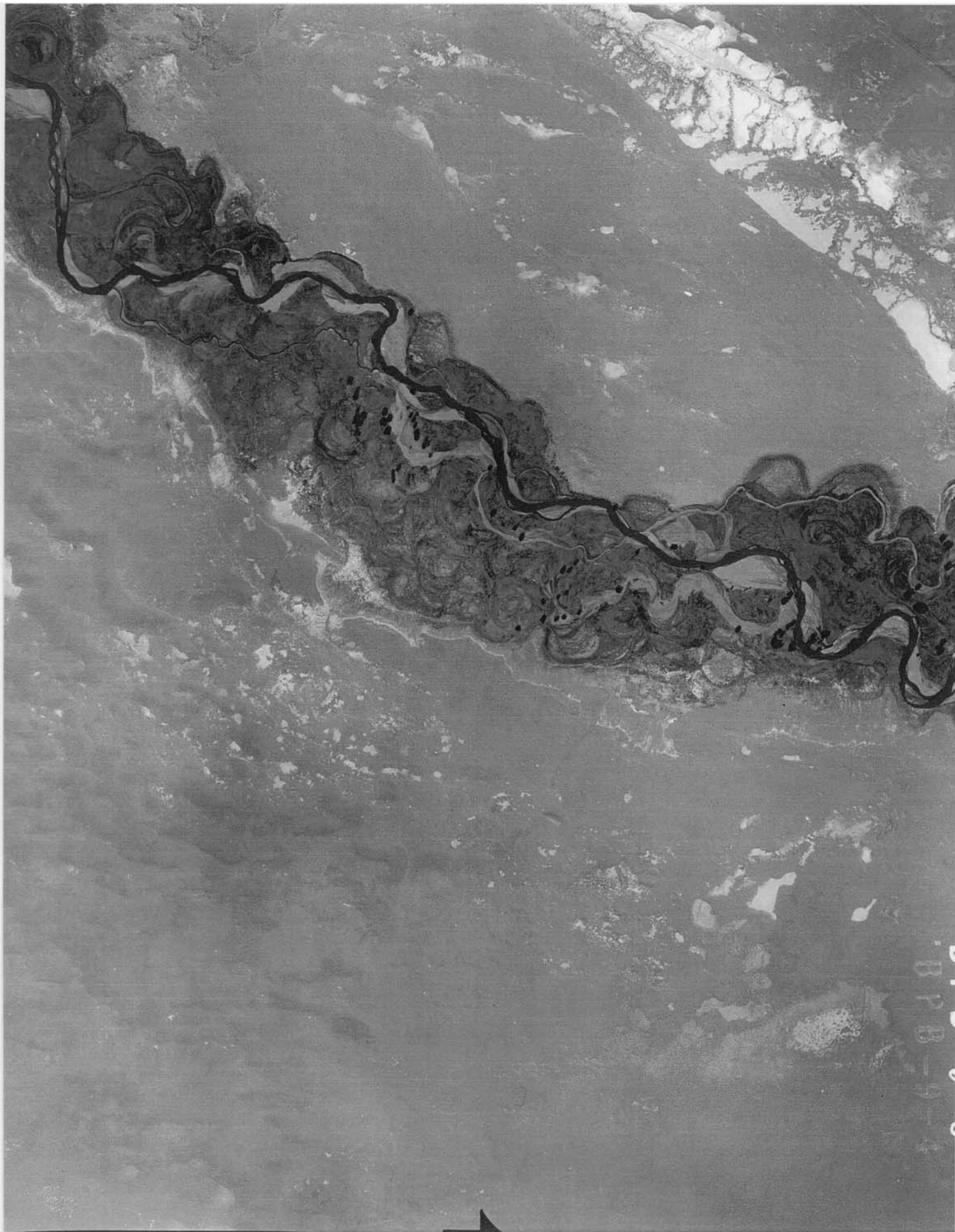
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Piedmont Basin Area Office

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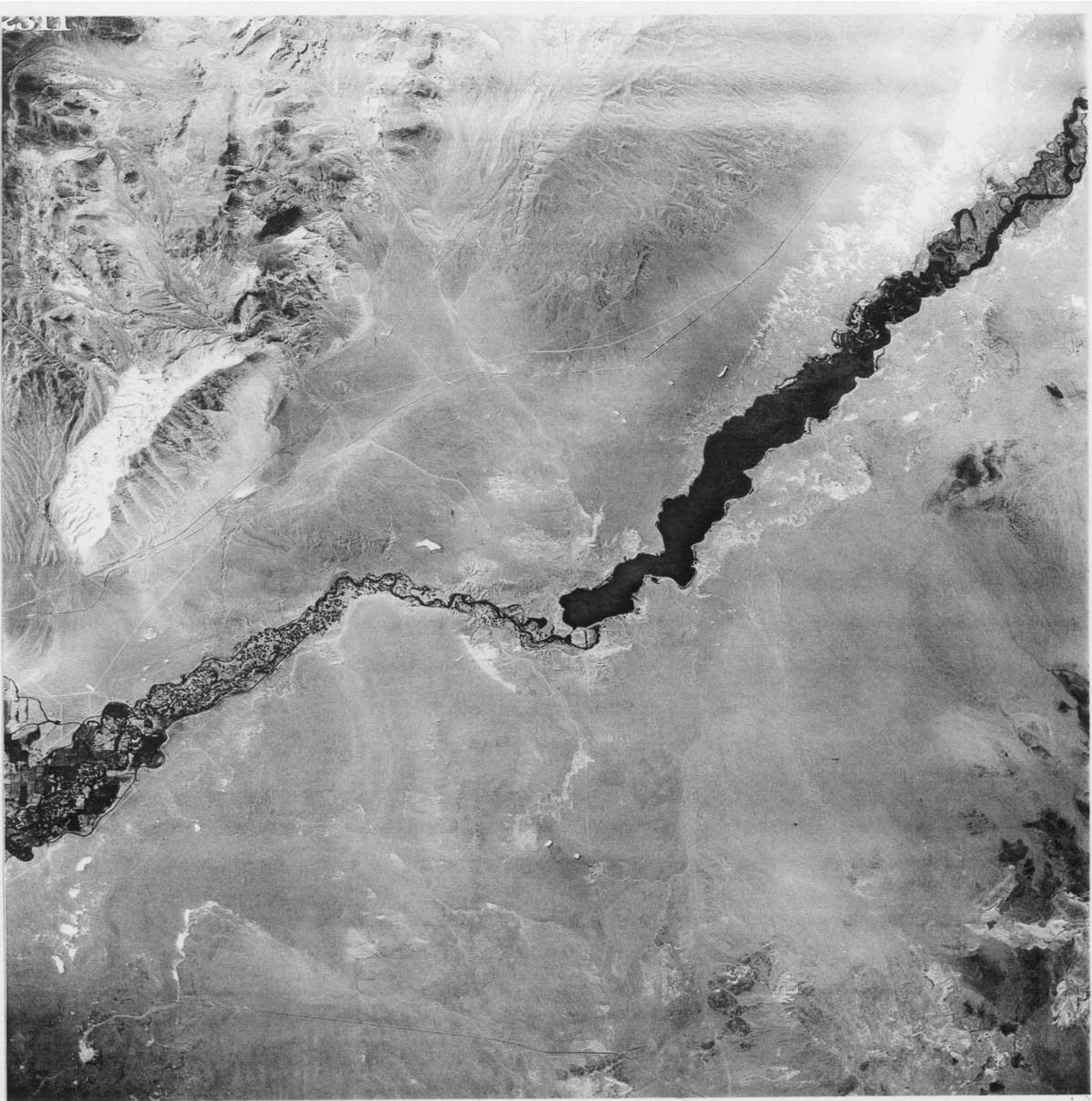
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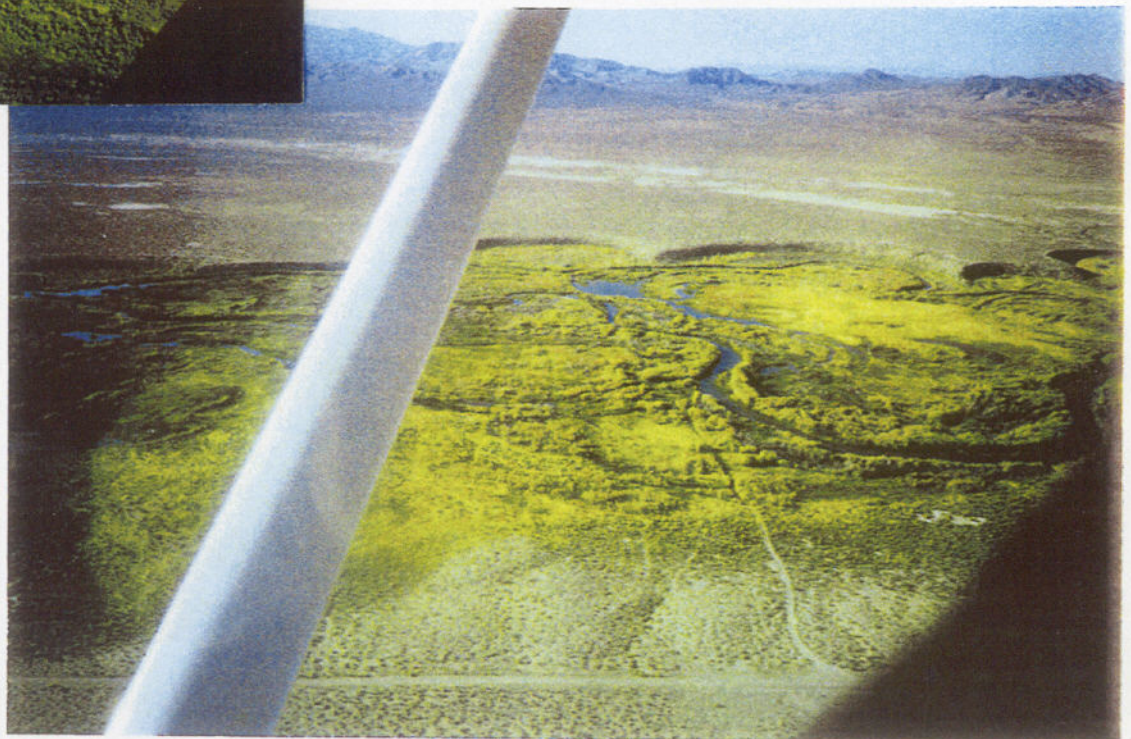




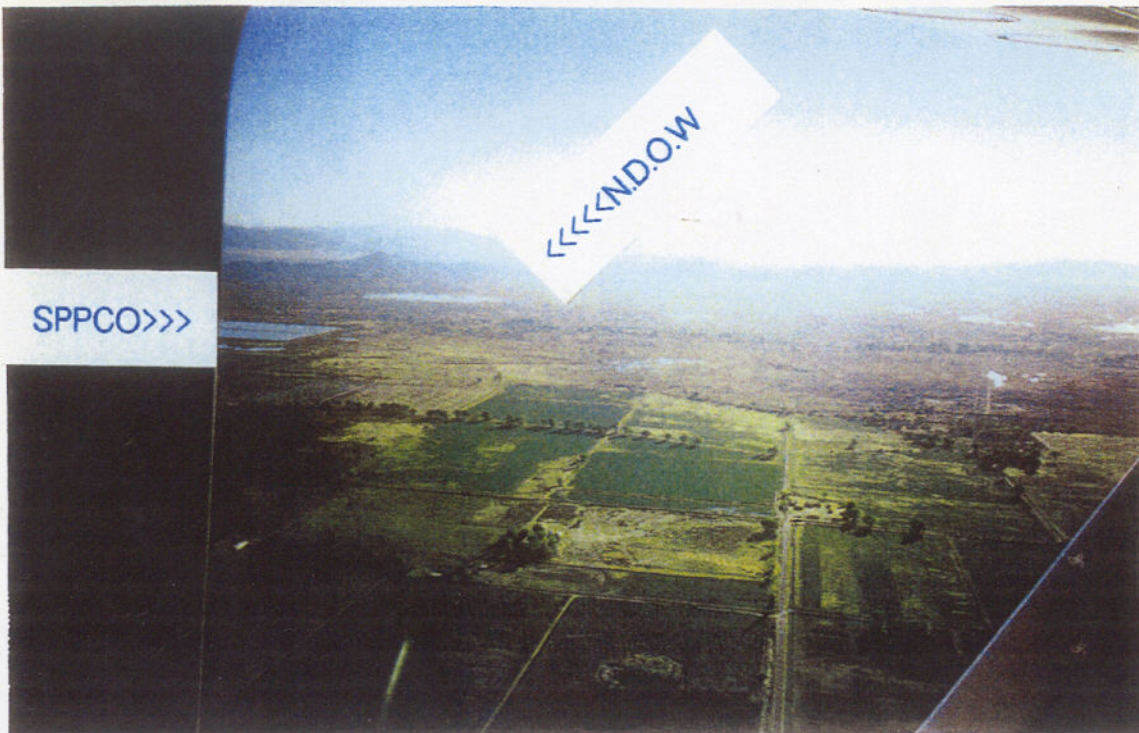
PICTURES TAKEN NOVEMBER 2000

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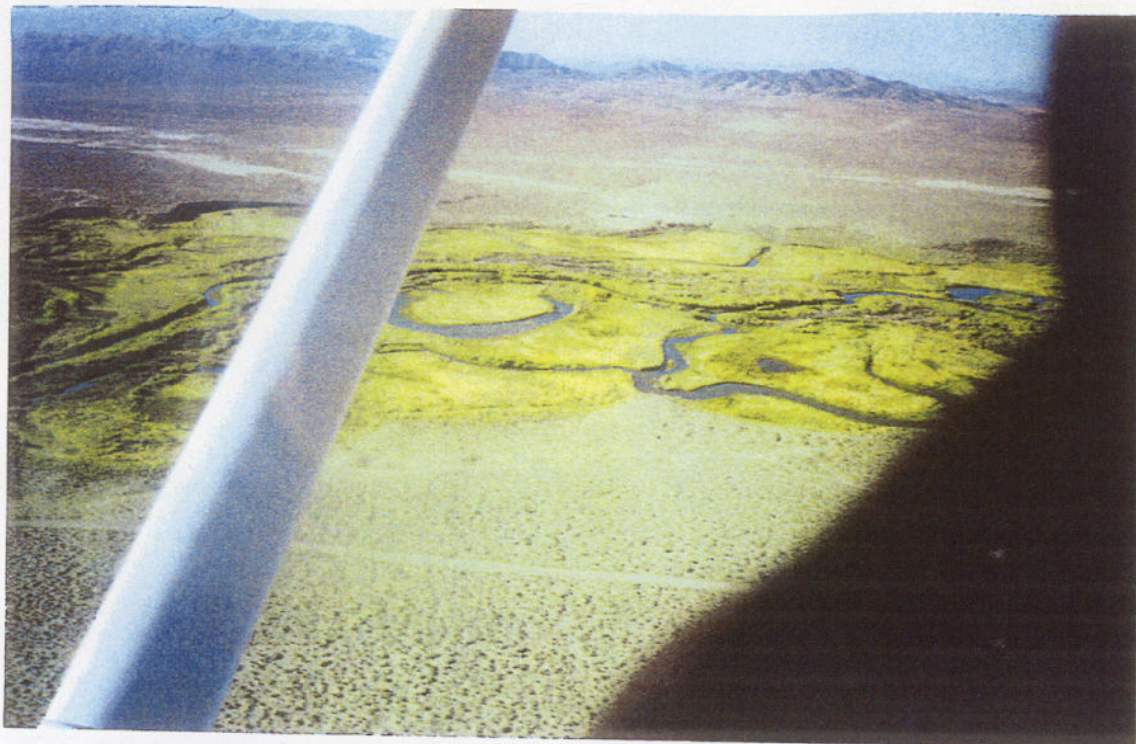
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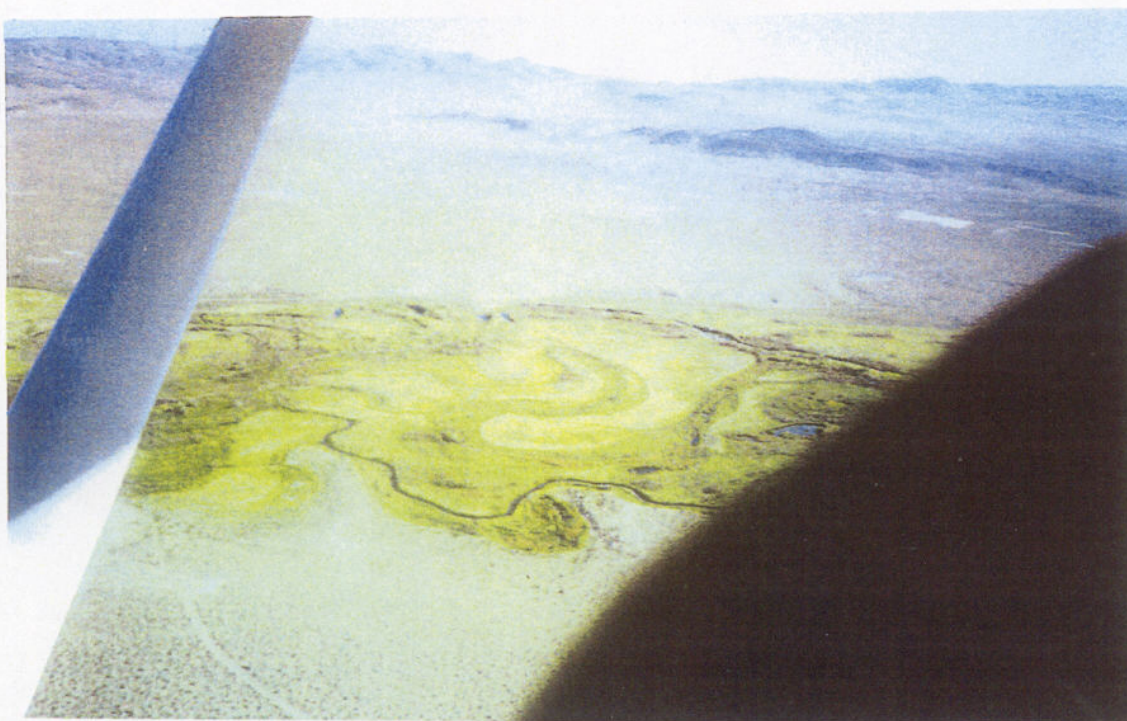
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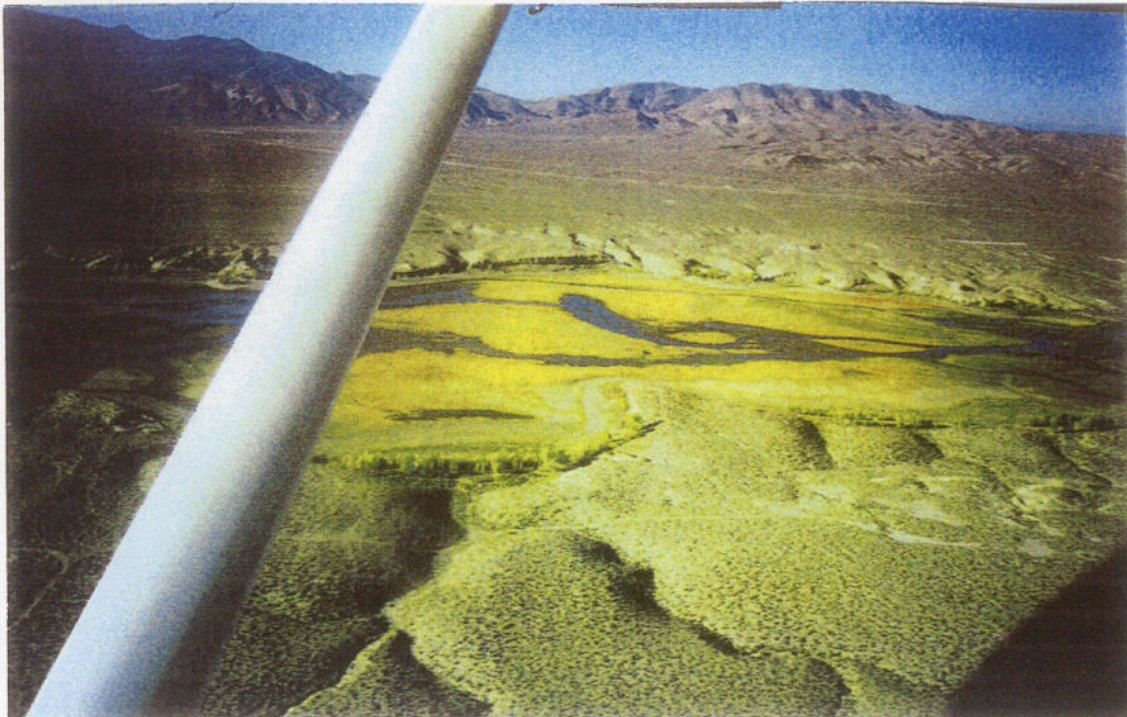
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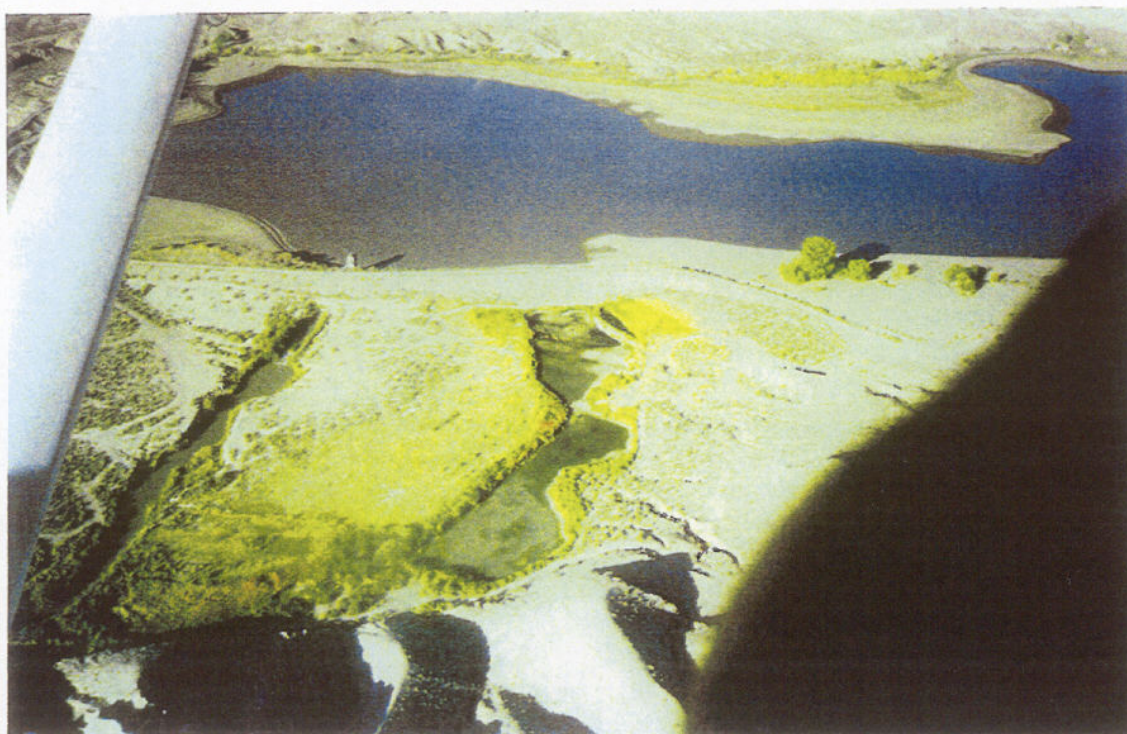


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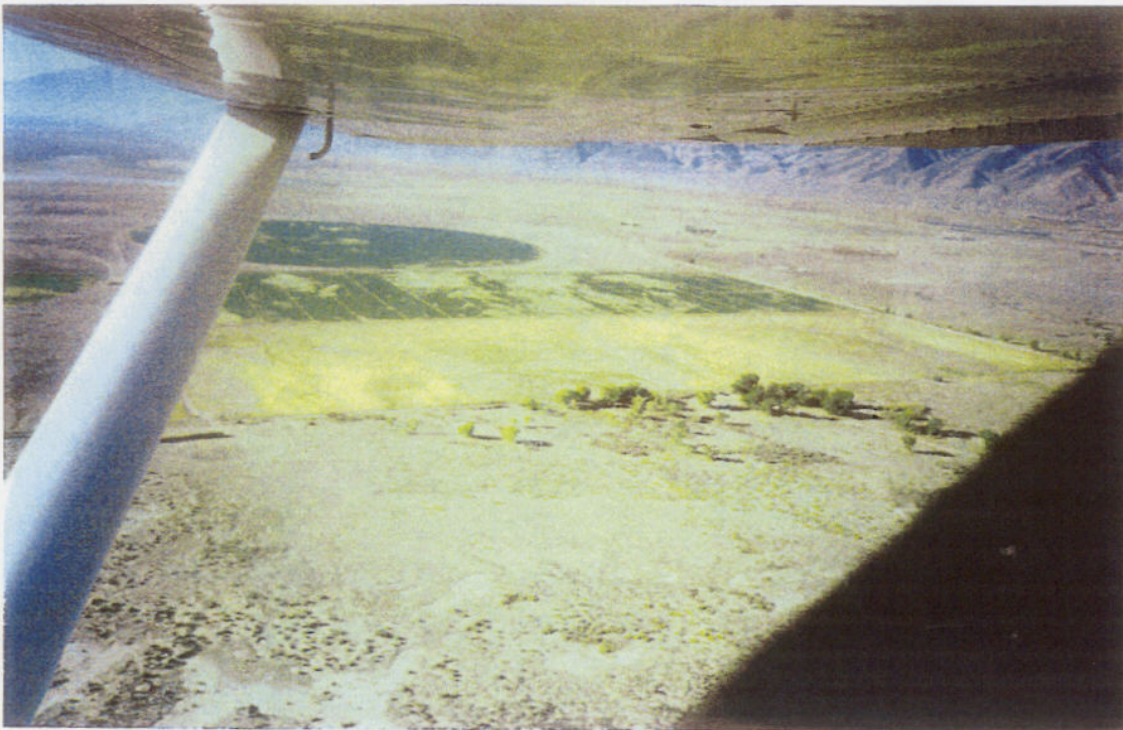




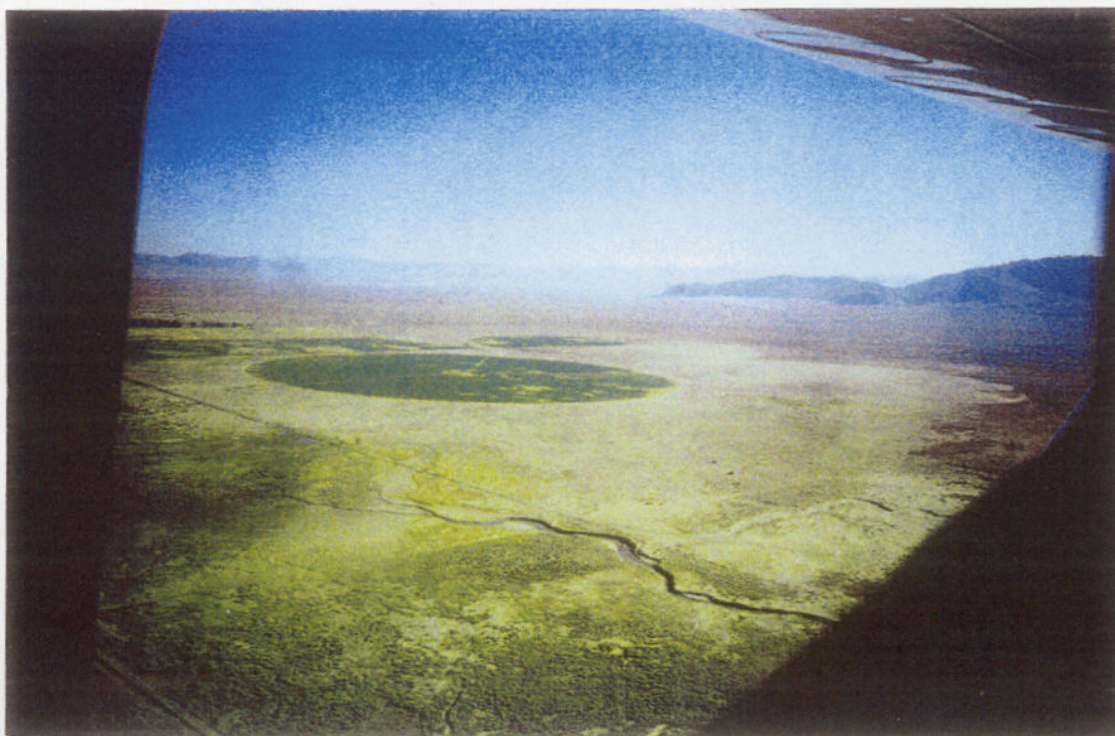
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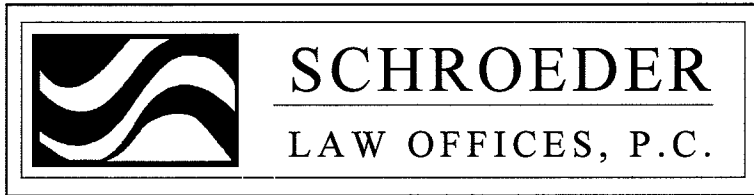


ENTRANCE TO WALKER LAKE

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Therese A. Ure
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Wyatt E. Rolfe
Licensed in Oregon and Nevada

December 5, 2007

VIA US EXPRESS MAIL

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, Nevada, 89701

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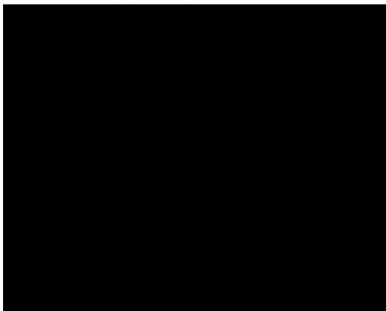
DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

RE: Comments Regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo:

Enclosed please find comments submitted in regard to the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), for the following individuals:



Please note that the signature page to Mr. Peri's comments is a facsimile copy. Should you require an original, one will be provided upon request.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

SCHROEDER LAW OFFICES, P.C.

Tara J. Jackson, paralegal for
Laura A. Schroeder

TJJ:tjj
Enclosures
cc: Clients

phone 503-281-4100

fax 503-281-4600

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www.water-law.com

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area OfficeDATE: 12/03/04

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: WALKER RIVER PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo,

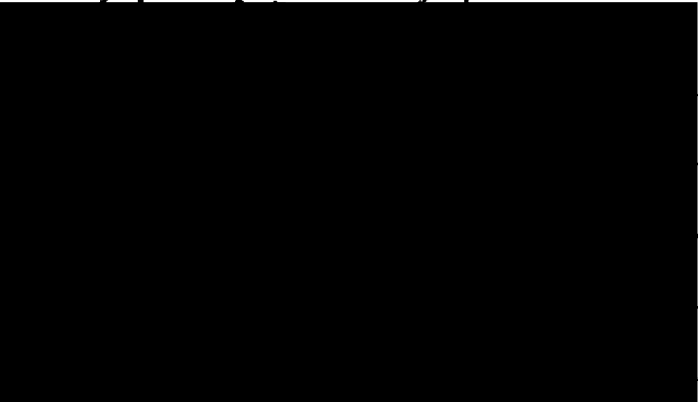
Attached, please find my comments regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement.

X, I request that personal identifying information which is included on this cover page, or in my attached comments, be withheld.

_____, I understand that my personal identifying information included on this cover page, or in my attached comments may be shared through the public review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Z _____
Email: _____



PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following alternative actions must be addressed in the EIS:

- Obtaining the needed water through a combination of alternative measures including conservation practices and channelization of Walker River.
- Placing a dike across a portion of Walker Lake to create a salinity barrier across a portion of the lake.
- Desalinization of Walker Lake
- Cloud seeding
- Reservoirs for capturing flood event flows so that the waters may be released later in the season.

If United States Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to provide water to Walker Lake by transfer of water rights appurtenant to agricultural lands, then the EIS should contain a detailed analysis of how the acquired water will be put to beneficial use to insure environmental restoration.

The EIS should identify the criterion to be used to assess effective environmental restoration.

If environmental restoration can be effectively completed, then what is being done or will be done under the program to sustain that restoration?

The Purpose and Need Statement suggests that the purpose of the acquisition program is to provide water to Walker Lake so as to implement federal statutes. What rational basis exists for providing water to Walker Lake when the data that is currently available suggests that the goal of the legislation, restoring Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health, cannot be met through the addition of 50,000 acre feet per year?

The EIS should analyze the actual goal to be achieved by the proposed action, i.e., the water acquisition program, given the lack of solid science to support the likelihood that the purchased water will have a positive effect on Walker Lake or Walker Basin environmental restoration.

The EIS should address the effects that the purchase of local water rights in the acquisition will have on domestic wells in the Mason and Smith Valleys.

The EIS should contain an environmental evaluation of how many wells will dry up if agriculture is virtually eliminated in Mason and Smith Valleys.

The EIS should analyze the accessibility of water for domestic well owners should their wells be adversely impacted by the water acquisition program.

The EIS should address the effects that the purchase of local water rights will have on domestic wells including the decline in the groundwater table and groundwater quality.

Will the project reserve any of the appropriated funds to pay for people to deepen or replace their domestic wells when they dry up as a result of the transfers?

The EIS must address the cumulative impacts on junior appropriators, if transfer of water to instream uses is allowed: Nevada state law precludes the transfer of water rights if junior water rights holders will sustain injury as a result of the transfer. How does the Bureau intend to address this issue, given the foreseeable impact of the transfer of 50,000 acre feet/year, or more, on junior water users in the Walker River Basin?

The EIS needs to address the cumulative effects on lands that are being dewatered, including:

- Air quality impacts regarding removal of water from agricultural lands
- Water shortages
- Groundwater impacts-aquifer depletion
- Soil loss
- Ecological systems-loss of wildlife populations
- Fragmentation of the irrigation district as a result of purchases
- Increase in noxious weeds

The impacts on agricultural production in Smith and Mason Valleys resulting from the purchase of water right needs to be addressed in the EIS.

The impacts of the socioeconomic consequences to the Smith and Mason Valleys including, but not limited to, the overburdening of social services and reduction in tax base, must also be analyzed in the EIS.

The EIS should contain an analysis of social justice issues that may arise, as a result of the diminishment of agricultural job opportunities, due to the transfer of water rights to instream use.

The EIS should contain analysis of the potential changes to community dynamics, and the potential loss of community character, for the Smith and Mason Valleys, and alternatives to those changes.

The EIS should contain analysis of cumulative impacts on land values in the Smith and Mason Valleys if the proposed action is undertaken.

The EIS should contain analysis of the changes in land use that will occur as a result of the dewatering of various parcels of agricultural land.

The EIS should contain analysis of aesthetic impacts on Smith and Mason Valleys if the purchase of 50,000 acre-feet/year, or more, of water rights is accomplished.

The EIS should contain analysis of the economic, cultural, and tax revenue costs to Lyon County if the 140 year old agricultural economy of Mason and Smith Valleys is terminated.

With regard to economic alternatives, the EIS should contain information regarding the percentage of the Mason and Smith Valley agricultural economy that will survive if the water acquisition project goes forward.

The EIS should contain analysis of the effects on the Smith and Mason Valleys' irrigation infrastructure, and how reduction of the amount of water available for irrigation will impact other irrigators in the region.

The EIS needs to analyze the impacts this acquisition program may have on the global protein quotient in light of the potential impact on Smith and Mason Valleys' dairy industry.

What entity will hold ownership of the purchased water rights? In whose name will the water rights be held?

The EIS should contain analysis of whether the purchased water rights will be irrevocably dedicated, and for what purpose, or if they may be sold or leased for other purposes.

If the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration, how will the water be put to use to avoid waste?

If the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration, then what would preclude the holder of the acquired rights from selling them to the highest bidder for municipal use (i.e., private developers in high growth urban areas, such as Las Vegas, Carson City, Reno, Fallon, and Dayton)?

Was any pre-program analysis done to assess the likelihood that the program will be able to locate willing sellers in sufficient numbers to achieve the goal of increasing freshwater inflows to Walker Lake so as to achieve environmental restoration?

The Memorandum for General Counsels, NEPA Liaisons, and Participants in Scoping published by the Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, suggests that a post-scoping document be made available to the public. This proposal is particularly applicable when scoping has been conducted by written comments. Will such a document be made available to those who commented, as well as those who participated in the scoping presentations?

DATE: 12-3-07

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: WALKER RIVER PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo,


Attached, please find my comments regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement.

☒ I request that personal identifying information which is included on this cover page, or in my attached comments, be withheld.

☐ I understand that my personal identifying information included on this cover page, or in my attached comments may be shared through the public review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email: _____



PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EIS must analyze the percentage of flow lost by evapotranspiration between the headwaters and Wabuska Gage, and explain how the estimate of the percentage of lost flow was determined.

The EIS must comment on the selection of the evaporation rate used for calculating inflow requirements by UNR in the UNR Walker River Basin Program and the justification for selection of that rate.

Has the scientific community reached agreement on the evaporation rates to be utilized in the calculations of the most beneficial rights to acquire, as well as how much water is needed before noticeable results are produced in terms of environmental restoration? If not, how will the total water availability be established without factoring these rates?

The EIS must address the cumulative impacts on junior appropriators, if transfer of water to instream uses is allowed: Nevada state law precludes the transfer of water rights if junior water rights holders will sustain injury as a result of the transfer. How does the Bureau intend to address this issue, given the foreseeable impact of the transfer of 50,000 acre feet/year, or more, on junior water users in the Walker River Basin?

Will the EIS address the issue of TDS levels in Walker Lake? If so, why was a 50,000 acre-feet annual increase in inflow selected as a reasonable quantity given the length of time that it will take to lower the TDS level in Walker Lake?

The EIS should analyze the long term effect of the proposed increase in inflow with regard to TDS levels. What types of studies will be used to evaluate the salinity levels? If a measure of environmental restoration is accomplished, how long will the TDS stay at a reduced level before it starts to rise again?

The EIS should address whether the 10,000 ppm salinity goal as discussed by NDOW is adequate for successful fishery restoration. The NDEP Draft TMDL (February 2005) suggested that TDS levels as low as 5,000 mg/l makes "kidney damage more prevalent" among LCT populations.

Walker River has significant sedimentation issues, which are positively impacted by the diversion of water for irrigation purposes. The EIS must comment on how the effect of terminating irrigation diversions will impact the quality of water flowing into Walker Lake.

DATE: 11-27-07

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, _____

Email: _____

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EIS should address the effects of climate change on the determination of the quantity of water needed to achieve the goal of the legislation, and what data is being used to calculate these effects.

The EIS should provide information from tree ring analyses of water availability in the region, in its assessment of available precipitation and the resultant impacts on Walker Lake water levels.

The graph presented on the background handout at the scoping sessions was for a limited period; from 1872 to present. Walker Lake has gone dry several times during the last 10,000 years (Thomas, 1995). 1882 was a year of heavy precipitation. Have cyclical changes in precipitation been taken into consideration in evaluating the reasonableness of the proposed action?

The EIS should address the effects of global warming in the evaluation of the proposed action.

The EIS should address the effects that the purchase of local water rights in the acquisition will have on domestic wells in the Mason and Smith Valleys.

The EIS should contain an environmental evaluation of how many wells will dry up if agriculture is virtually eliminated in Mason and Smith Valleys.

The EIS should analyze the accessibility of water for domestic well owners should their wells be adversely impacted by the water acquisition program.

Will the project reserve any of the appropriated funds to pay for people to deepen or replace their domestic wells when they dry up as a result of the transfers?

The EIS should address the effects that the purchase of local water rights will have on domestic wells including the decline in the groundwater table and groundwater quality.

The scoping materials suggest that an increase in annual inflows to Walker Lake by approximately 50,000 acre-feet will help restore Walker Lake to a sustainable condition of ecological health. If alternative proposals relating to quantity of water required to achieve environmental restoration were suggested by the research, then the EIS should comment on why other alternative estimates were not selected.

What is the total quantity of water rights, i.e. acre-feet, that will have to be purchased to comply with the purpose of the Desert Terminal Lakes Act, P.L. 170, Sec. 2507, and how was this figure determined?

In the analysis of the proposed action, the EIS must provide information regarding the basis for the selection of a particular methodology for calculating the total quantity of water that must flow past Wabuska gage to enable delivery of an increase in annual inflows of 50,000 acre-feet

of water to Walker Lake. Additionally, information needs to be provided regarding what other alternatives were evaluated and the basis for their rejection.

The EIS should contain information regarding the priority and duty of water rights that have been or are being acquired by the program.

The EIS should analyze how the acquired water rights will be quantified as in-stream rights. Will the purchases be limited to surface rights?

The information from the scoping meetings relating to the Administrative Draft EIS prepared by the Bureau of Land Management in 2001 indicated that successful infusion of water into Walker Lake would require a pulse of hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water before the proposed additional amounts would result in remediation of Walker Lake's condition. Please address how this is to be accomplished.

Obtaining the needed water volume for instream flow will require more than twice the nominal water rights (100,000 to 200,000 AF) identified in the scoping information depending on water right type, priority date and point of diversion within Mason or Smith Valley. The EIS should comment on the likelihood of obtaining this quantity of water rights to achieve the required increased flow.

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

DATE: 11-29-07

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

RE: WALKER RIVER PUBLIC COMMENTS

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Attached, please find my comments regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement.

_____, I request that personal identifying information which is included on this cover page, or in my attached comments, be withheld.

☒ I understand that my personal identifying information included on this cover page, or in my attached comments may be shared through the public review process.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature: Michael Fabbro

Name: MICHAEL FABBRO

Address: 291 OSBORNE LN

City, State, Zip: VERMILION NEV

Email: _____

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The EIS should identify and evaluate alternative methods for achieving environmental restoration to all or a portion of Walker Lake.

The EIS should comment on why other statutorily mandated activities under the authorizing legislation including research into innovative agricultural water uses and enhanced delivery methods were not initiated before the acquisition of water rights was initiated.

The following alternative actions must be addressed in the EIS:

- Obtaining the needed water through a combination of alternative measures including conservation practices and channelization of Walker River.
- Placing a dike across a portion of Walker Lake to create a salinity barrier across a portion of the lake.
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If United States Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to provide water to Walker Lake by transfer of water rights appurtenant to agricultural lands, then the EIS should contain a detailed analysis of how the acquired water will be put to beneficial use to insure environmental restoration.

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The impacts of the socioeconomic consequences to the Smith and Mason Valleys including, but not limited to, the overburdening of social services and reduction in tax base, must also be analyzed in the EIS.

The EIS should contain analysis of cumulative impacts on land values in the Smith and Mason Valleys if the proposed action is undertaken.

The EIS should contain analysis of the effects on the Smith and Mason Valleys' irrigation infrastructure, and how reduction of the amount of water available for irrigation will impact other irrigators in the region.

Who will own the water rights that have been purchased? What entity will hold ownership of the purchased water rights? In whose name will the water rights be held?

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If the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration, how will the water be put to use to avoid waste?

If the project fails to achieve its goal of environmental restoration, then what would preclude the holder of the acquired rights from selling them to the highest bidder for municipal use (i.e., private developers in high growth urban areas such as Las Vegas, Carson City, Reno, Fallon and Dayton)?

Has the channeling of the river from Wabuska gauge to Walker Lake been considered, or is it being considered under this EIS to assist in efficient water delivery to the lake?

If the water that is bought under this program does not actually help or benefit Walker Lake, then where will that water go? If the decision is made to sell the water, will it be returned to Mason Valley or Smith Valley, or another place?

Water that is bought for Walker Lake should continue to be diverted and flow through the entire ditch system (i.e. down each ditch to the end), allowing this purchased water to flow through its original system to allow for continued recharge into the ground water table and prevent domestic users from going dry. Has this been considered?

RECEIVED

DEC 06 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

DATE: 11-27-07

TO: Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St., Rm. 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-884-8352
Fax: 775-884-8376
Email: chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov

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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signature

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Email: A _____

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Purpose and Need Statement presented during the scoping process was limited to activities identified in Sec. 208 (a) only. It ignored Sec. 208 (c)(1) which provides additional funding for channel restoration and tamarisk eradication. Given the recognized difficulties in delivering any purchased or otherwise acquired water to Walker Lake, the EIS should address why this important legislation was omitted from the EIS.

The EIS should address what criterion will be used to determine successful compliance with the legislation.

What is the scope of the alternatives that will be addressed in the EIS? Despite the statement made by the Bureau of Reclamation in its Extension of Scoping Comment Period notice that other options of providing water to Walker Lake will *not* be analyzed in detail in the EIS, the Council on Environmental Quality suggests that alternatives outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency *must* still be analyzed in the EIS, if they are reasonable. Therefore, discussions of all alternatives need to be included in the EIS.

The EIS should identify and evaluate alternative methods for achieving environmental restoration to all or a portion of Walker Lake.

The EIS should comment on why other statutorily mandated activities under the authorizing legislation including research into innovative agricultural water uses and enhanced delivery methods were not initiated before the acquisition of water rights was initiated.

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US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Glenn Sciaran
Affiliation (if any): Rancher & WRIID Director
Street Address: 150 Denmore Ln 463 9022
City, State, Zip: Verington NV 89447 Date: 11-25-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

Handwritten return address:

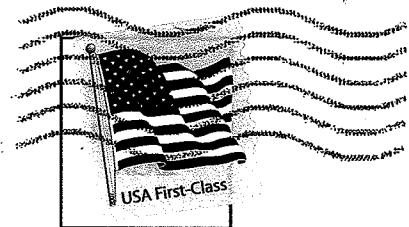
Glenn Sciaran
150 DenSmore in
Yerington NV 89447

PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

RENO NV 895

27 NOV 2007 PM 3 L



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Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

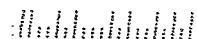
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NOV 28 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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I support the water lease program that WRID proposes, although I feel that it is a complete waste of the taxpayer's money to try to save a terminal lake. When you study the cost to the taxpayers, farmers, and citizens of Mason and Smith valleys you will agree.

My first concern is loss of water in the delivery ditches. Some ditches lose 30 % or more of their diverted water, which affects ground water levels; the shared loss of water affects the other farmers that use these ditches. Farmers share the cost of maintaining these ditches. Transfer of land or water will impact how much each farmer will pay in assessments. The program must leave at least 20% of the water that it buys in each ditch and continue to pay the assessments.

My second concern is the cost to WRID to manage and operate the drains and river system. This funding is absolutely essential and assessments need to be paid by who ever owns the water even if the water doesn't go on the land.

Third, any fallowed land will have dust, fire, and noxious weed problems. Jay Davison from UNR found that it will take two irrigations the first year and one every year after that to keep some natural growth alive. That land will also need to be seeded and sprayed for noxious weeds on a regular basis, at a very large cost. I for one cannot put a price on the cost of the loss of beauty and esthetics to our valley.

Fourth, agricultural businesses will lose money for every acre of land that is taken out of production, impacting the profit of these businesses. You can't tell an equipment dealer to sell fishing boats or a seed and fertilizer dealer to sell dust masks. I think that there needs to be a fund set up that businesses can apply for reimbursement on a percent per acre. (Example. 80,000 total acres in the district 640 acres purchased = .008%. A primarily agricultural based business that shows a profit of \$150,000 should be able to apply for \$120 in reimbursement.) I know that this is extreme but something like that needs to be set up.

Whereas a leasing program keeps the system whole, the farmers will continue to pay their assessments, the water will only be taken off fields that are scheduled for rotation, and the farmers will continue to do business with local merchants, by far reducing the impact on our economy and the cost to the taxpayer.

It may not seem like a burden to the remaining farmers at first, but as more and more land is taken out of production it will become more and more expensive for the remaining farmers to continue to operate.

Sincerely
Glenn Sciarani



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Raymond R. Shoemaker

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 32 Maple Dr.

City, State, Zip: Yerington, Nevada 89447 Date: 10-23-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Leave the water in Mason Valley alone!

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

[illegible]

Return Address:

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

PLEASE TAPE CLOSED HERE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Jan Shoemaker
Affiliation (if any): Ranch land owner
Street Address: P.O. Box 1159
City, State, Zip: Yerington, NV 89447 Date: 10-23-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Walker here has been dying for
some time. The water from Mason
Valley will only postpone the inevitable.
Even partial acquisition of of water
from Mason Valley will damage
our ecosystem and the agricultural
industry of Mason Valley.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

[illegible]

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

PLEASE TAPE CLOSED HERE

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

December 3, 2007

Re: Walker River Basin Project

I am writing regarding the impact the WALKER RIVER BASIN PROJECT would have on Mason and Smith Valleys. The 2002 Farm Bill addressed desert terminal lakes, but left out any mention of purchasing or leasing water rights, but Senator Reid changed that in the appropriations bill to include water right purchases from willing sellers. Reid also seems to have a conflict of interest by giving UNR the money to purchase water rights and also conducting the environmental impact study. He certainly does not seem to have the interests of citizens of these valleys in mind. Even though sellers provide water, there is no certainty that 50,000 acre feet will ever reach the terminal desert lake Walker. Evaporation would greatly affect this outcome. The farmers may not always be allocated their total allowance due to dry years.

Jim Sanford has informed us for several weeks in great detail concerning this Project in articles in The Mason Valley News. This has been so helpful. He named alternatives for procuring water from Whiskey Flat, Cottonwood Creek, and near Schurz. Whiskey Flat Ranch water rights were for sale around 1994-95. Senator Reid did not pursue this.

Most importantly, the economic impact upon these valleys if water rights are sold are: The farming and ranching lifestyles of these valleys would literally dry up. The loss of irrigation water would impact the domestic wells, reducing groundwater. Flora and fauna next to the river would be seriously affected. The loss of the farming and ranching communities would impact other businesses and the labor pool, ultimately decreasing the tax base. Should Mason and Smith Valleys sacrifice their social and economic lifestyles in order to try to save a terminal desert lake when there is no way of knowing how much water would reach the lake? 20,000 acres in Lyon and Douglas Counties turned to dust is not justified in order to attempt to save a desert terminal lake. I ASK YOU FOR A FAIR, UNBIASED, SCIENTIFIC, AND COMPREHENSIVE EIS.

Marilyn J. Shreve

701 DAY LANE

Wellington, NV 89444

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by ~~November 26~~, 2007.

DECEMBER 10,

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Six W Ranch

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 112 Hy 338

City, State, Zip: Smith, Nevada 89430 Date: 12-8-2007

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

We do not support the water acquisition program.
Water purchases will be detrimental to upstream
irrigation system's. It will create negative environmental
and economic conditions for the communities
involved

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name:

Alan ~~Bundy~~ Smith

Affiliation (if any):

Street Address:

928 W Cottonwood

City, State, Zip:

Walker LK, NV 89415

Date:

11/20/07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Walker Lake really is a wonderful
AREA it has prehistoric high desert
qualities about it that should be
preserved.

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- 1. Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.**
- 2. Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.**
- 3. Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.**
- 4. Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.**
- 5. Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.**
- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.**

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2007

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office**

**Donald L. Smith
P.O. BOX 306
SMITH, NEVADA 89430**

RECEIVED
DEC 04 2007
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

December 1, 2007

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza St.
Room 320
Carson City, NV. 89701

RE: EIS: Walker River Basin Acquisition Program

Comments:

- The Study should include ALL COMPONENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT: The Land, The Water, Air, Wildlife, Vegetation, and most importantly, The People.
- The Study should include ALL impacts the diversion of this water will have, especially to The Economy and on The People of the ENTIRE Basin. Information already distributed indicates this will not be the case since California is being excluded in some aspects of this Program.
- The Study should include the impact on Domestic Wells this diversion will cause.
- While looking at historical data of the Basin and the Lake is necessary, more weight should be given to current data and future impacts this diversion will cause.
- Particular scrutiny should be paid to the Sustainability of the volume of water being considered. Ask the question, can the volume be sustained? If it can't, then that should be given weight in the final decision.
- A review of pending litigation must be made as part of this Study. There is plenty of it, and it will weigh heavily on the actual outcome, so it cannot and should not be excluded from the Study.
- The Study should be unbiased and fair. Some literature distributed thus far indicates otherwise, i.e., the needs of Mineral County have been targeted for particular consideration (why should the needs of Mineral County be any more important than the needs of the other counties in the Basin?).
- The Study should include a review of Alternative Sources/Measures to accomplish the same end, getting water to Walker Lake. Such Sources/Measures would include: Existing unused or underused water at or near Walker Lake; The elimination of invasive vegetation; Steps to reduce evaporation; Cloud seeding; Desalination; Ditch and Canal improvements.

Respectfully,


Donald L. Smith

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

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PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name:

Brandy B. Smith

Affiliation (if any):

Street Address:

928 W. Cottonwood Dr.

City, State, Zip:

Walker Lake, NV 89415

Date: 11-19-07

Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Walker Lake & Pyramid Lake are ancient lakes that should be respected and given great consideration. The Pelicans migrate to & from Pyramid Lake to Walker Lake. As the water continues to salinate how will this effect the Pelicans from Pyramid?

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

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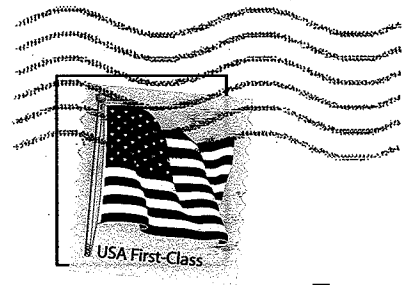
PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE

Return Address:

Smith
928 W. Cottonwood Dr
Walker Lake, NV
89415

RENO NV 895

NOV 2007 PM 3 L



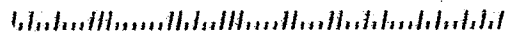
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PLEASE TAPE CLOSED HERE

Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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89701+4065



To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

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- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.**
10. Study migration of Pyramid Lake Pelicans to & from Walker Lake and the effects of the Walker Lakes demise on them.

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2007

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office**

From: "Justin Smith" <jjwsmith@mvqn.net>
To: "Caryn Hunt DeCarlo" <chunttDecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/9/2007 9:07:40 PM
Subject: Walker River Basin Project

My wife and I currently own Greenfield Animal Hospital in Yerington, NV.

Our facility offers medical and surgical services for dogs, cats and horses. Our business has done very well since opening in October 1997.

Our business currently employs two veterinarians and eight support staff. We all have families and enjoy living and working in Yerington.

We have plans to build a new larger facility to increase the scope and volume of veterinary care services. Along with the increase in size

of our building we anticipate employing at least four additional staff.

The new building project is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2008. With building and new equipment costs the project will exceed \$500,000.

Considering current business and projected growth in the area I expect my business to continue to do well.

However, with the possibility of losing the water that Mason and Smith Valley have for agriculture concerns and the prospect of ground water levels

dropping to a depth that it will be cost prohibitive to drill a domestic well, I am reconsidering my project.

Without a growing practice base I may not be able to service my loan and my employees will lose their jobs. I would likely move from this area

leaving only one other veterinary facility for the next 60 miles. I would wonder if the other veterinary practice in Yerington could survive.

I feel that agriculture will not be the only casualty if water is stripped from Mason and Smith Valley.

I feel that most businesses will be severely adversely affected. If business cannot survive, residents will be forced to travel at least an hour to the next town for services.

The effect will be that Yerington, Smith and Wellington will become ghost towns.

I do not feel Mason and Smith Valley residents are being considered fairly in regard to the proposed diversion of water to Walker Lake.

I think weighing the economic impact of Mason and Smith Valley with the economic impact of the Walker Lake area needs careful investigation.

I am ready to invest in this community and contribute to the quality of life in this area. Please consider the big picture.

As added comments: I feel strongly that 1) the evidence that I have seen is that there is not enough water to "save" Walker Lake-it is a terminal

Lake and terminal lakes become more salty with time, and 2) I personally believe that after the Federal Government (i.e. Harry Reid) decides that even with all the water being diverted to Walker Lake that it still cannot be saved. So I expect the decision will be made to send Walker River water to Las Vegas.

Sincerely,

Justin W. Smith, DVM

Jody R. Roderick-Smith, DVM

From: Jim <JSnyder@tele-net.net>
To: <chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/10/2007 2:36:24 PM
Subject: Walker River Scoping Comments

Gentlemen:

Please find my attached comments regarding the Walker River EIS
Scoping Process.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Snyder

Comments on Walker River Basin EIS Scoping

Jim Snyder
12/07

My family and I operate a diversified ranch in Mason Valley, Nevada. Four generations of us have derived our livelihood here over the last 130 years. We are most concerned about the effort to purchase water rights to be moved to Walker Lake.

Common Sense

I keep thinking that someday, somebody is going to start to see some of the practical implications of the actions of environmental do-gooders. I do not question that this world faces huge environmental concerns. I do not question that these concerns need to be addressed, but they need to be addressed with the best wisdom, science, common sense, and practicality that we can muster. Political ambition and emotion are only going to compound these problems. I fear that in the case of the proposed Walker Basin water-rights purchase, the ratio of environmental benefit to social and economic cost is terribly out of whack. I do understand that the people of Hawthorne and Walker Lake face a most difficult economic situation that is exacerbated by the decline of Walker Lake. I do understand that the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout will be unable to survive in Walker Lake if the water quality declines much farther. The term "economic and agricultural powerhouse" may not seem obviously appropriate when applied to Mason Valley or Smith Valley. Yet, compared to the lower reaches of the Walker Basin, these valleys are just that, powerhouses. Is it wise, in a world of limited resources and the expanding demands of an ever growing population to permanently cripple a thriving segment to subsidize a failing segment that may never recover or become more productive? Is it wise to divert precious water to a desert terminal lake which has been shrinking for hundreds or thousands of years in an effort which may only postpone the inevitable demise of that lake by a very few decades?

Property Rights

When a South American dictator assumes ownership of private property for the "greater good" of the country, we call it nationalization and our public officials loudly criticize the violation of property rights. When the US government assumes ownership of private property, we call it environmental restoration. Of course there are differences, but are they really that great?

I understand that the intent of the legislation that provides funding for purchase of water rights in the Walker Basin is to compensate individuals who decide to sell their water rights. However, the impact of water right transfers will reach far beyond the property lines of those who choose to sell. This topic is always raised in discussions of the purchase of water rights in the Walker Basin. However, I simply do not believe that any outside observer or decision maker can adequately understand those impacts, nor do I have any degree of faith that such impacts will be satisfactorily mitigated. I pray for a huge surprise.

If water is simply removed from any given property in the area of concern, the appearance of that property is going to change drastically. In most cases, lush green alfalfa fields are going to revert to undesirable species such as kochia or tumbleweed, or to dustbowl conditions. Noxious species may take over in other areas as they have in the Truckee Basin. It may be possible to establish and maintain a community of more desirable species under the new, drier conditions, but it will require careful study and a lot of money. And still, neighboring properties will be impacted.

Any sincere study of impacts of water rights must include study of areas where such programs have already been implemented such as Lahontan Valley and Owens Valley. Everyone involved in these efforts should view these areas or, at least, photos of them.

Such a study must also include a good mathematical model of the hydrology of the basin and that model must be used to understand the hydrologic impacts of every proposed water right transaction. This model must be built upon a complete set of accurately measured values, not the assumptions of an outsider. I do not believe that those values are known, nor do I believe that they will be collected within the allotted time.

Land owners and local governments will face major impacts to the property tax structure.

One of the most frightening and potentially devastating impacts, from a farmer's point of view, would occur when another water right holder on the same delivery ditch sells his water rights. The delivery ditch will continue to suffer the same volume of delivery loss, but that loss will now be spread over fewer acres resulting in greater percentage losses on the remaining acreage and reduced net deliveries of water in a system where water availability is already less than adequate. Without iron clad protections, I think that it is almost inevitable that decision makers and negotiators will exploit the situation to cause panic among other water rights holders on a ditch to sell rather than to suffer the losses resulting from the sale of a neighboring property. Water right purchases are already being negotiated with no such protections in place.

My views encompass the larger, more obvious issues involved. The concerns expressed by the Walker River Irrigation District represent more in-depth understanding of the more subtle issues. I think that the views of WRID are of equal importance to those of my own.

E John Snyder
Snyder Livestock Company, Inc. and UNR Small Business Development Center
138 Hwy 95A N
Yerington, NV 89447

October 25, 2007

Amended December 6, 2007

EIS Comments for Walker River Basin Acquisition Program

Although I work for UNR in the Nevada Small Business Development Center to study the Economic impact of the Walker River Project, The comments here are from my perspective as a farmer/rancher and a resident of Yerington, Nevada. These views do not reflect the position of UNR or that of any of the researchers involved with the Walker River Project.

As a longtime resident and as a local farmer I am extremely concerned with the Walker River Acquisition project. I am also working part time for UNR in determining the economic impact this project will have on our family business, our local economy and the agricultural community along the Walker River.

First of all, I am concerned with the way that The Bureau of Reclamation and UNR are following the law. According to Public Law 109-103 Section 208 the University is "to acquire from willing sellers land, water appurtenant to the land, and related interests in the Walker River Basin, Nevada". In talking with the staff of one of our congressional representatives, the intent of this law is to purchase land with the water rights, and not to purchase water rights apart from the land. Grammatically, the law states exactly that. Land, water, and other related interests (i.e. ditch stock) are to be purchased as a package deal. The conjunction "and" in the statement makes the items all inclusive. Had the authors used the conjunction "or", then water rights could have been purchased separately from the land. I have asked about this matter to persons in charge of the project at the University and they assure me that it can be interpreted in the manner they are pursuing. The US bureau of Reclamation and UNR are NOT following the original intent of the law. How can be that government organizations do not even follow the laws that they are charged with executing?

Secondly, I am concerned with the affects this project will have on the local agricultural community. If, as proposed, UNR does purchase water rights within Mason and Smith Valleys, the agricultural and economic effects on the area will be profound. If the water rights only are purchased, will UNR continue to pay the assessments on the land or will the remaining farmers be required to make up the difference in assessments to maintain and operate the Walker River Irrigation District? Any amount of water taken from any area of the system will affect other users in the system. Currently, water losses are absorbed by the users along the ditches. If any water is taken from the system, the efficiencies will diminish and remaining users will suffer the economic hardship due to

less water arriving at their farms. Land values of agricultural land and residential land will most likely be negatively affected because of the selling of water rights from other parcels.

Additionally, remaining residents and water users will have to contend with windblown soil erosion problems. Removing the water from an area subjects the area to wind erosion. This can cause dust hazards due to poor visibility, respiratory problems, and additional expenses to farmers who must clean windblown silt out of irrigation ditches and re-level fields that have been damaged by windblown soil erosion. This very thing happened in Fallon as water rights were removed from properties there. This was presented by Jay Davison of UNR in Fallon at the local stakeholders meeting in August. I realize that this concern is being addressed by members of the project team through the use of replanting native vegetation in the area. However, without water, even native vegetation does not easily return to an area stripped of water.

Lyon County is one of the most important agricultural counties in the state of Nevada. I believe that the sales from agricultural product will be first in the state when agricultural product sales data is compiled from the 2006 growing season. Not only does this provide economic support for owners of agricultural lands, but it also provides support to local retail merchants, including local equipment dealers, fertilizer dealers, pesticide dealers, grocery stores, hardware stores, etc. The onions grown in Mason Valley alone bring nearly 1500 jobs during the harvest season to the community. These harvest crews support local businesses by purchasing food, automobiles, and fuel, to name a few items. Loss of precious water will also reduce the availability of prime ground on which high value crops can be grown. Since the US currently imports slightly over half of its food items, every bit of agricultural land that is taken out of production increases our dependence on foreign entities further. Have we learned nothing from our dependence on foreign oil?

Thirdly, I am concerned about this project because of the minimal beneficial effects it will have on Walker Lake. Harry Reid's office themselves admit that 50,000 acre feet of water rights will most likely not have a significant effect on Walker Lake. Therefore, they most likely will obtain more funding to purchase more water rights, further devastating the Mason and Smith Valley areas. Research by Saxon Sharpe (DRI Publication # 41231) indicates that for a period of about 8000 years, the area of Walker Lake was almost if not completely dry. One of the highest priorities for this project is to protect the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout fishery in Walker Lake. Since the lake was dry for about 8000 years, I doubt if any fish survived during that period. The fish currently being planted in the lake are not even the original strain of Cutthroat Trout that were originally found in the lake. The economic benefits of trying to save the fisheries will no where near offset the economic devastation caused to Mason and Smith Valleys because of this project. Although the exact dollar figures are not available yet to demonstrate this, I believe that anyone with common sense can come to this same conclusion.

Lastly, although the law clearly states that land and water are to be purchased from Nevada only, the Walker River system includes properties on both Nevada and

California. Why are California water rights holder not being asked to share in this burden? Why does the Bureau of Reclamation and UNR follow the intent of the law regarding this and not follow the intent concerning the purchase of land with the water. The majority of water from the Walker River system comes from California, and yet only Nevada farmers are being asked to sacrifice.

The most appropriate solution to balance the needs of Walker Lake with the needs of the agricultural communities lies in proposed legislation by Walker River Irrigation District. The legislation balances the needs of all users within the system and provides administration for the project by local citizens for the benefit of all affected citizens. It does not discriminate based on location, profession or political affiliation of the residents of the Walker River System.

In conclusion, I would like to encourage the Bureau of Reclamation to keep in mind that their purpose is to serve the people of this area with fairness and equity. Priority for a fish species that is not even native to the system cannot be given over the livelihood of farmers or residents along the Walker River System. A balanced solution can be reached, but the Walker River Acquisition Project is not the balanced solution that is needed to serve the best interest of the people for whom you work.

Thank you for your time,

E. John Snyder

Eddie R. Snyder
PO Box 550
Yerington, NV 89447
December 5, 2007

Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N Plaza St. Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Comments on Public Scoping

Dear Mrs. DeCarlo,

Why should the Whiskey Flat well field not be used to replace M&I water now being used by the City of Hawthorne and Army Ammunition Depot? That would allow water resources from Mount Grant and Cory Peak areas into Walker Lake.

Developing extensive underground water from Schurz and Gabbs Valley areas would have a positive impact on Walker Lake. Why not?

Has an analysis of the long-term effects of global warming along with the decrease in annual snow and rainfall been considered? Can Walker Lake be saved with continued drought conditions? Studies have shown a positive benefit can be achieved through cloud seeding. Are you considering this?

Should the University of Nevada be successful in the purchase of water rights, will taxes and assessments still be paid to Lyon County and the Walker River Irrigation District? Who would own the land and water rights?

In your Extension of Scoping Comment Period, you mention the cultural, scenic, and aesthetic impacts to Mineral County. Do not the green fields of alfalfa, onions, corn, and small grains have an aesthetic value? Are not the birds and mammals that live in Mason and Smith Valleys worthy of keeping their home? How can you duplicate the smell of new mown hay or the early morning sound of farm machines pounding out bales of protein rich alfalfa? No other place in Nevada in September will you find tens of thousands of burlap bags of onions in neat straight rows, waiting to be hauled into storage, and later to be graded, bagged, and shipped throughout the United States and some foreign countries? Have you considered the fact that Mason and Smith Valleys, in 2007, probably had more agriculture income than any other county in the state of Nevada?

The purchase of water rights for Walker Lake will most certainly include water from Bridgeport and Topaz Reservoirs. Lowering the level of these lakes early in the season will have a severe impact on the recreation and economic benefit to Douglas County, Nevada, and Mono County, California. Has this been considered?

Will this study attempt to resolve pending litigations?

Will you consider a "No Action Alternative?"

The Rosaschi Ranch in Sweetwater area was once was a productive cattle ranch with homes, green pastures with contented cattle grazing along the East Walker River. Since ownership was transferred to the United States Forest Service, willows have flourished, irrigation stopped, and noxious weeds have overtaken the once green meadows. Will the farmers be trading their green fields for weed patches to put water in Walker Lake?

Who will be responsible for dust and weed infestations on land where water rights were purchased?

Will decrease in irrigation water in Mason and Smith Valleys have a detrimental effect on domestic wells in these valleys?

Will a water-leasing program be considered in depth? Long term leasing will allow water to go to Walker Lake without destroying the agriculture base in Mason and Smith Valleys.

Sincerely,



Eddie R. Snyder
Mason Valley Farmer

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LYON COUNTY ♦ NEVADA

27 SOUTH MAIN STREET ♦ YERINGTON ♦ NEVADA 89447

(775) 463-6531

FROM OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTY

(775) 577-5037

FAX: (775) 463-6533

LEROY GOODMAN

PHYLLIS HUNEWILL

LARRY MCPHERSON

BOB MILZ

DON H. TIBBALS

DENNIS STARK
COUNTY MANAGER

November 27, 2007

Ms. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Comment on the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ms. DeCarlo:

The Lyon County Commissioners feel that the above referenced project (P.L. 109-103) is of extreme importance and will have a significant impact to the Citizens of Mason and Smith Valley therefore the following comments are offered:

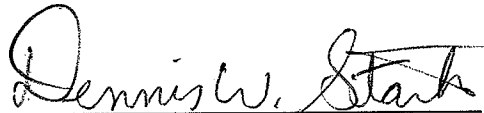
1. None of us want to see Walker Lake dry up, however the Walker River and its accompanying ditch delivery system have been proven to be the primary recharge source for not only agricultural areas but also for domestic well use. Any diversion of additional water from the Walker River and ditch delivery system creates a real concern for our citizenry.
2. Removal of water from the system will also create a significant hardship on affected wildlife and plant environments, the habitat and watershed. Have these areas been investigated?
3. There has been much emphasis placed on 208(a), which involves the acquisition of water from willing sellers upstream. Since the law simply calls for acquiring additional water; we would urge equal consideration be given the other sections of the proposal such as water from the Mt. Grant watershed, Walker River Indian Reservation, Hawthorne Ammunition Depot.
4. High priority should be given to environmental restoration in the Walker River Basin, as referenced in Section 208(2)(B).
5. Regarding sustained improved conditions in Walker Lake as proposed Lyon County does not believe that is possible, therefore we believe Walker Lake is terminal in nature and no reasonable efforts can be made to ensure its viability. Lyon County urges the exploration of reclamation efforts including water leasing/banking programs; wider effluent use; desalination and oxygenation options.

6. Due to current drought conditions, Lyon County believes the EIS needs to be based on current weather and water conditions, not on precipitation figures and weather conditions from the past. If the forecasts of Global Warming becomes reality, water depletion will continue and perhaps at an even faster rate.
7. The social and economic impacts (losses) on both the Smith and Mason Valleys would be devastating. The removal of water would follow the land and destroy considerable acreage. This is land that supports the local economy and constituency.

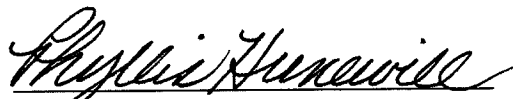
The Lyon County Board of Commissioners also supports and concurs with the positions and letters of City of Yerington, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, and the Walker River Irrigation District.

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners urges the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a comprehensive and unbiased EIS on this project. Please keep us in the communication loop as the process moves forward, and we would appreciate being provided a copy of the Scoping Report to assist us in providing our citizens with information they may need.

Sincerely,



Dennis Stark, County Manager



Phyllis Hunewill, Chairman

RECEIVED
DEC 10 2007
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

From: Karen STEELE <ksteele70@hotmail.com>
To: <chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 12/10/2007 11:20:03 AM
Subject: Walker River EIS - Mason & Smith Valley water

Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
Bureau of Reclamation
705 No. Plaza St. #320
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Walker River Environmental Impact Study - Diversion of water from Mason & Smith Valley

Dear Ms. Hunt DeCarlo:

This request is being submitted in regards to the drastic measures proposed to acquire water for the preservation of Walker Lake; a known desert lake that has been diminishing for centuries.

As residents of Mason Valley for 19 years and in Lyon County for 32 years we respectfully request a fair, unbiased, comprehensive and "responsible" environmental impact study on the proposed water project that has been presented and "funded".

1. However, this project seems a waste of taxpayer funding in lieu of the current draught and world wide weather changes and concerns due to global warming. Funding on water resource availability from other areas (the State of Washington and Oregon who are currently flooding) might be better appropriate.
2. There are major discrepancies regarding the available water and resources of water for this project.
3. Not only will the current citizens of the impacted areas have their economic and rural life style altered, but there will be a dramatic impact on the existing wildlife by directing water away from these valleys. As an example our domestic well is but 112 feet deep and obviously supported through local irrigation waters running through our property. It is of great concern to us that a decrease of existing water will impact us personally through this situation but also for our future which may likely be based on real estate values remaining desirable in the area because of water availability. Our small 12 acre irrigated parcel could be what pays for our elder health care.
4. Changes in the past 20 years have already reduced wildlife in our immediate area and it would seem there is a responsibility to the Nevada environment to not place any additional pressures on the ecosystem of the Walker River.
5. Monies allocated to the University of Nevada for this project would be better spent in educating the public, both private and industry on better water management practices. Already State officials are speaking of the alternative use of land as housing development and in this area historically agriculture is the desired economic choice. The quality of life in these valleys will be drastically reduced if this allocation of waters is completed. Or as the world weather pattern dictates. As a great deal of the Western states will be coping with water issues, it is imperative that a campaign begin to educate and present to local governments better water management practices. Our experience as former government employees is that it takes a minimum of 10-20 years to make any qualifying successful change in the public sector. So we are again late in our efforts.
6. It is not always possible to serve the needs of some who experience an economic calamity. It is also not possible to fix all of mother nature's "master plan".

As individuals who currently use a bucket in their shower and a bucket in their kitchen sink to catch "gray"

waters and divert them to our yard and trees we are very concerned with the proposal to divert water that will likely not significantly impact mother nature's historical resolve for the Walker Lake.

Again, we ask for a complete and non-biased environmental study on the issue as it pertains to this area. Thank you.

Chuck and Karen Steele
34 MacKenzie Lane
Yerington, NV 89447
PH (775) 463-2274

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From: "Swanson, Sherm" <SSwanson@cabnr.unr.edu>
To: <chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov>
Date: 11/19/2007 1:54:49 PM
Subject: Walker River EIS

Caryn:

I regretted being tied up during the scoping meeting and I'm happy to provide input by email.

My biggest concern is for the future of the River and the people who care about the River or the Valley of which it is a part. Rivers in valleys like Mason and Smith Valley must have floodplains that are accessible to remain functional. As they lose access to the floodplain, the change in vegetation and hydraulics causes them to erode faster both vertically and horizontally. Often this accelerated erosion induces people who live near the river to engage in various forms of bank protection that actually causes problems upstream and down. Any action that causes people to feel that the floodplain is less likely to flood or flood as deeply causes more people to move out onto the valley floor. As they do so, the impacts to people from the next flood increase. There is then more thirst for more flood control, then more people and this serial engineering leads to the river being turned into a concrete ditch. The best example of this is the Los Angeles River. But many other rivers are in various stages of this serial engineering. Some are in some stage of restoration but this is far more expensive (e.g., (\$800 million for the Truckee River) than acting responsibly in the first place. To act responsibly, the land near a river must be maintained in flood compatible land uses. This means that development with houses and infrastructure must not be located on the floodplain and especially not in the meander belt-width.

While the intent of this legislation is to get water to the Lake, the most significant consequence to the watershed ecosystem is likely to be the ruining of the river through a chain of events that will likely be accelerated. The people of these valleys and others face a fork in the road. If the water is sold, or the fear of losing the agricultural customs of the valley becomes great enough for the land to be sold, the highest dollar sale of land will be to development. The land that will sell to development first will be where it is prettiest and this is near the River with its grand old cottonwoods etc. Thus the very land that should be protected from development is being developed and the acquisition process is propelling this forward at a faster and alarming rate. Each division or parcelization sale will lead to the land under a future building and often under the roads to be elevated above the 100-year floodplain. Each act of this will decrease the floodplain available to the floodwaters and the floodwaters will be deeper in the adjacent areas or all across the flooded valley. Deeper water will lead to increased flood damage to others and increased hydraulic stress in the River and damage to the River. This is already happening, with the

strip development along Bridge Street and Alt 95 that is creating two floodplain dams that will increase future flood damage to Yerrington and to the River. After future floods, there will be a clamor for emergency flood control and the river ecosystem will be of little concern during such an emergency. Incision will lead to bank erosion which will lead to revetments and faster water. Thereafter concrete will beget concrete.

The water quality issue thus is looming large as incised rivers produce tremendous sediment (in some areas, this will be salt enriched sediment) with its assortment of eutroifying algal nutrients and physical effects.

Another concern is the transport of water to the Lake. One of the most function and ecologically interesting river reaches in Western Nevada is the reach between Wabuska and Webber Lake. Because this area has not been channelized or otherwise ruined it has maintained some natural features such as floodplain access. With the floodplain access and riparian vegetation that depends on the floodwater, this reach provide important riparian wildlife and fish habitat. Transporting additional water through this reach may or may not have a significant impact on channel morphology and riparian habitats. If any action to speed water through this reach were undertaken, there would certainly be an impact. One must also ask if the water that does not pass this reach as surface water in a given year, either passes through in subsequent years after the alluvial aquifer is recharged, or if it makes its way to the Lake in the form of groundwater.

I realize that these comments may be challenging to address. However, I feel they are crucial to insert into the public discourse and will likely be pertinent to one alternative or another. If I can provide any clarification about these or related issues, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sherm

Dr. Sherman Swanson,

University of Nevada State Extension Rangeland Management Specialist and
Rangeland and Riparian Scientist,

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science

1000 Valley Rd. Reno, NV 89512

sswanson@cabnr.unr.edu Phone 775-784-4057 Fax 4583

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
WALKER RIVER BASIN ACQUISITION PROGRAM AND EIS
LAHONTAN BASIN AREA OFFICE, NEVADA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit input regarding the Walker River Basin Acquisition Program and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Please include any sources of relevant data or information that you feel may enhance this document. Comments must be received by **November 26, 2007**.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

1. Turn in today at the Public Meeting; or
2. By US Mail addressed to Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, Lahontan Basin Area Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, 705 N. Plaza St., Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701; or
3. By E-mail to chunttdecarlo@mp.usbr.gov; or
4. By Fax to (775) 884-8376; or
5. If you have questions regarding the EIS or the process, please call Caryn Hunt DeCarlo at (775) 884-8352.

Privacy Notice: Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Unless indicated by you otherwise, you will automatically be added to the official EIS mailing list by submitting this form.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: Mary L. Swisegood + Mark A. Creasy
Jeremy T. Carty

Affiliation (if any): _____

Street Address: 126 Roark Dr.

City, State, Zip: Walker Lake, NV. 89415 Date: _____

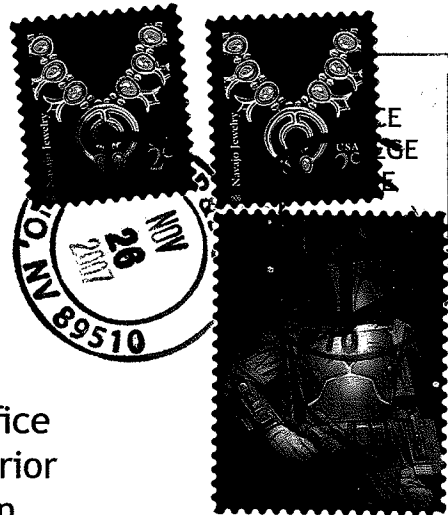
Comments: (Comments may be continued on the back or a separate sheet.)

Comments must be received by November 26, 2007

Return Address:

126 Roark Dr.
Walker Lake, NV
89415

PLEASE FOLD IN HALF HERE



Lahontan Basin Area Office
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: Mrs. Caryn Hunt DeCarlo
705 N. Plaza St., Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

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NOV 27 2007

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lahontan Basin Area Office

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To Whom It May Concern:

Foremost we want to preserve Walker Lake. Water is one of the most valuable resources of the State of Nevada. We do not want the Lake to turn in to another Mono Lake, CA or Owens Lake, CA.

The water available should be sufficient to satisfy the needs of all users in the Walker Lake Basin. Primary to accomplish this is accurate measurements for all diversions and wells to account for and police the users of water. No user should be able to use more than his or her allotment!

As a resident of the Walker Lake community I do not want the bed and banks of Walker Lake Community given to the Walker River Paiute Indian Tribe. We would like to see the Tribe take the bed and banks from the existing reservation down to and including Sportsman Park. Further we do not want any of the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D. to be involved in this transaction.

The following are important issues involved; I have circled the issues that are of interest to me personally:

- 1. Preserve Walker Lake as a recreation area for all people now and in the future.**
- 2. Preserve the existing water rights of the Walker Lake Water G.I.D.**
- 3. Exclude the bed and banks of the Walker Lake Community being given back to the Walker River Paiute Tribe.**
- 4. Enforce and Monitor all water diversions and water wells to make sure no user receives more than their allotment.**
- 5. Federal financing for development of ground water sources in the Hawthorne Army Depot Lands for either drinking water or to help maintain the level of Walker Lake.**
- 6. A co-coordinated study to provide solutions to meet the legal requirements for fire fighting and emergency services to rural communities.**
- 7. Waste Water Treatment Plants for Hawthorne and Walker Lake to help preserve Walker Lake water quality.**
- 8. Exclude the residents of Mineral County from being charged by the Walker River Paiute Tribe for using Walker Lake: Camping, Fishing, Boat Permits etc.**
- 9. Financial funding to improve the flow of water in the Walker River. Remove vegetation that consumes large quantities of water. Make necessary improvements to irrigation ditches to prevent water losses.**

Mary L. Sursegood